

# VCU Shafer Court Connections

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY > Fall 2008



ANNIVERSARY

## ***Fortieth and forward***

VCU marks its 40th anniversary in 2008, celebrating four decades of innovation and a future full of possibilities

V i r g i n i a   C o m m o n w e a l t h   U n i v e r s i t y



**INDICATORS** Nasdaq Composite 2,428.92 ▲23.71 S&P 500 Index 1,388.82 ▲8.89 TSX Composite 13,966.1

**CIRCA**

### Classroom technology: 2008

Real-time stock quotes scroll across the fully functioning Capital Markets Center, located in Snead Hall, the new home of Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Business. The 1,400-square-foot room brings a slice of Wall Street to the Monroe Park Campus, offering students a high-tech learning environment where they receive hands-on experience in market analysis.



# Contents

## [FEATURES]

### 8 > Fortieth and forward

This year Virginia Commonwealth University marks its 40th anniversary, celebrating four decades of innovation and untold potential for the future.

### 10 > A university's roots

VCU's anniversary revisits a historic moment in higher education, when the General Assembly created an urban university in the heart of Richmond.

### 12 > The evolution of VCU

Continuous growth and development since 1968 transformed VCU into Virginia's largest university and the leading economic engine for the Richmond area.

### 22 > Bridging the gap

As state funding declines, unrestricted annual gifts provide VCU the flexibility to respond to immediate needs and special opportunities.

### 28 > Giving back

Alumni bequests and planned gifts enhance and preserve the university's tradition of excellence for years to come.

## [DEPARTMENTS]

### 2 > Circa

Classroom technology: 2008.

### 5 > University news

Noteworthy news and research at VCU.

### 20 > The big picture

VCU moments and milestones appear in this retrospective look at the university's history.

### 24 > Alumni connections

The latest news from the alumni association.

### 29 > Class notes

Updates from alumni, faculty, staff and friends.

### 38 > Datebook

Upcoming university and alumni events.

### 39 > Circa

Classroom technology: 1970s.



# Warm greetings from your university!

Much of this issue of Shafer Court Connections is devoted to commemorating the birth 40 years ago of Virginia Commonwealth University.

VCU is marking its anniversary with a variety of opportunities for alumni to share in commemorative and celebratory activities and programs. I hope you will capitalize on this special time in our history to make a new connection — or strengthen your existing bond — with your university.

I urge you to visit the "Fortieth and Forward" anniversary Web site at [www.40th.vcu.edu](http://www.40th.vcu.edu), where you can revisit VCU's history and share your own memories in a virtual time capsule.

You also can be a part of this historic celebration by joining VCU and the Richmond community at the Monroe Park Festival, which kicks off at noon Saturday, Oct. 25, in Monroe Park. The festival will feature the best of VCU today and yesterday as well as musical performances from local bands nominated by students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends. Rumor has it that the infamous "Ask It" booth and other alumni favorites might re-emerge for this special celebration.

As always, your alumni magazine showcases graduates, students, faculty and staff who represent the cherished values that reflect the intellectual excellence of your university.

I hope you will pay close attention to an article explaining the increasingly critical role private support from alumni and friends plays in the future of your alma mater, as public funding for higher education continues to decline. I've heard it said that VCU has evolved from a state-supported to a state-assisted university, and now we find ourselves most accurately described as state-located. Our future margin of excellence rests in the hands of our alumni and friends.

Anniversaries and birthdays mark significant milestones and accomplishments while providing the opportunity for reflection, celebration and renewed commitment, enthusiasm and energy to achieve our mission, shared vision and goals.

This year presents an opportunity to celebrate the milestones and accomplishments of VCU across the past 40 years while looking ahead to the exciting prospects for future collaborations and discoveries. I encourage you to reflect on the role VCU has played — and continues to play — in your life and to take this opportunity to get involved. Your university will be enriched by your participation and leadership.

According to your fellow alumni who have joined the VCU Alumni Association as active dues-paying members, the benefits and enrichment go both ways.

To quote the VCUAA board of directors, "Celebrate VCU!"

Yours for VCU,



Dan Massey  
President, VCU Alumni Association



## VCU Shafer Court Connections

Fall 2008 • Volume 14, Number 1  
[www.vcu-mcvalumni.org](http://www.vcu-mcvalumni.org)

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT,  
UNIVERSITY ALUMNI RELATIONS  
Gordon A. McDougall

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
VCU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
Diane Stout-Brown (B.S.W. '80/SW)

EDITORIAL  
Kristen Caldwell (B.S. '94/MC)

DESIGN  
Trina Lambert

PHOTOGRAPHY  
Lin In George

PRODUCTION  
Jessica Foster

CONTRIBUTORS  
*Editorial:* Kay Bonis (B.S. '88/MC), Jennifer Carmean (B.S. '98/H&S), Kelli Craig, Teri Dunnivant, Erin Egan, Claire Hairfield, Holly Roberts, Melanie Irvin Solaimani (B.S. '96/MC), Kim Witt

*Design:* Pamela Arnold (B.F.A. '87/A), Nathan Hanger (B.S. '01/MC), Haley Hollenbach (B.F.A. '01/A), Katie McBride (B.F.A. '04/A), Chris O'Brien, Matthew Phillips (M.F.A. '87/A), Shannon Williams

*Photography:* VCU Athletics, VCU Libraries—Special Collections and Archives, Allen Jones (B.F.A. '82/A; M.F.A. '92/A), Tom Kojasich, Jennifer Watson

Shafer Court Connections is published semiannually by the Office of Alumni Relations and VCU Creative Services for Virginia Commonwealth University's alumni, faculty, staff and friends. Opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily represent those of the university or magazine staff.

Send address changes to the Office of Alumni Relations, Virginia Commonwealth University, 924 W. Franklin St., P.O. Box 843044, Richmond, VA 23284-3044; telephone (804) 828-2536; [vcu-alum@vcu.edu](mailto:vcu-alum@vcu.edu).

Letters to the editor should be sent to Shafer Court Connections, Virginia Commonwealth University, 827 W. Franklin St., P.O. Box 842041, Richmond, VA 23284-2041, or e-mail [shafercourt@vcu.edu](mailto:shafercourt@vcu.edu). Please include your name, address and a daytime phone number; anonymous letters will not be published. Letters may be edited for clarity or space.

Contributions of articles, photos and artwork are welcome; however, Shafer Court Connections accepts no responsibility for unsolicited items.

© 2008, Virginia Commonwealth University.  
An equal opportunity, affirmative action university. (80525)



### On the cover

Gov. Mills E. Godwin Jr. signs legislation in 1968 to create VCU. The commonwealth celebrated VCU Day July 1, 2008.



# University news

News and research at Virginia Commonwealth University.  
For the latest updates, visit  
VCU online at [www.news.vcu.edu](http://www.news.vcu.edu).

## Women's b-ball posts winning season

The women's basketball team heads to the court this season on the heels of a record-setting 2007-08 campaign. Last season, the Rams established school-record totals for wins, conference wins, winning percentage, home wins, road wins and postseason wins.

"This was a great year, but in our minds, it's only the beginning," says head coach **Beth Cunningham** (M.S. '03/E).

Picked to finish fourth in the CAA, the Rams began the season with seven straight wins, the best start in program history. The team also was invited to the Women's National Invitation Tournament, where they'll make a repeat appearance Nov. 14.

In another season highlight, **Krystal Vaughn** (B.S. '08/E), named first-team All-CAA, became the first VCU women's basketball player to have her name called in the WNBA draft. The forward was selected 34th overall by the Washington Mystics.




WNBA draft pick Krystal Vaughn takes a break on the court during the record-setting 2007-08 Rams women's basketball season.

## Students solve 'simple' challenge

VCU's da Vinci Center for Innovation in Product Design and Development, a program that brings together students from VCU's schools of Engineering, Business and the Arts, unveiled its first project, "Operation Simple: The \$500 Operating Table for Developing Countries," in May.

## VCU president announces retirement



Eugene P. Trani, Ph.D., announced on Aug. 14, 2008, his plans to retire from the positions of president of Virginia Commonwealth University and president and chair of the VCU Health System, effective June 30, 2009. He will remain at VCU as University Distinguished Professor.

Dr. Trani earlier planned to step down as president in June 2007, but at the request of the VCU Board of Visitors, he agreed to extend his presidency until June 2010. After undergoing quintuple heart bypass surgery in July, Dr. Trani decided to move his retirement up a year.

"My surgery and recovery have made it clear to me that I should listen to my physician's advice, and that stepping down one year earlier than planned is the best thing for me to do," Dr. Trani said. "I have had time this past month to reflect upon how important it is for me to spend time with my family while I am healthy."

Dr. Trani, 68, has led VCU through a major transformation during what will be a 19-year tenure as president, building the university into a major urban research institution and the largest university in Virginia. He said a priority for the remainder of his term as president will be to ensure a smooth transition as the Board of Visitors conducts a national search for his successor.

VCU President Eugene P. Trani announces his retirement plans at an Aug. 14 press conference.

Suele Kabir, a graduate engineering student, and two fellow graduate students, Hitesh Patel from business and Jennifer Farris from arts, spent the spring semester designing a prototype for reducing the prohibitive cost of operating tables, which can run up to \$30,000.

This fall Phase II of the project will involve developing the engineering aspects of the table to ensure that it can support 300 pounds — the industry standard. Phase III, in spring 2009, will focus on producing and marketing the table.

## VCU arts school ranks No. 1 in U.S.

The VCU School of the Arts is ranked the No. 1 public university visual arts and design graduate program by U.S. News & World Report in its "America's Best Graduate Schools 2009." The arts school also ranked fourth overall among graduate visual arts and design programs — the highest ranking ever for a public program.

In total, 25 different programs at VCU were ranked in the U.S. News & World Report graduate and first professional programs rankings. The Department of Sculpture and the Department of Nurse Anesthesia each ranked No. 1.

To see the complete list of VCU graduate programs recognized by U.S. News & World Report, go to [www.vcu.edu/ranking](http://www.vcu.edu/ranking).

## VCUQatar plans campus addition

In May, VCU and Education City officials broke ground for an expansion to the VCUQatar campus in Doha. For 10 years, the VCU School of the Arts in Qatar has offered a Bachelor of Fine Arts in graphic design, fashion design or interior design. With the new building, VCUQatar plans to expand its offerings to include a master's degree in design as well as a library and additional facilities to support students.

## Annual convocation honors faculty

The university recognized four distinguished professors for outstanding accomplishments in the areas of teaching, scholarship, service and overall excellence at the Faculty Address and Convocation Sept. 16. This year's honorees were:

- Distinguished Service Award: Mary Ellen Olbrisch, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine
- Distinguished Scholarship Award: David Wojahn, professor and director of creative writing, Department of English, College of Humanities and Sciences
- Distinguished Teaching Award: Jeffrey South, associate professor, School of Mass Communications
- University Award of Excellence: awarded posthumously to Billy Martin, Ph.D., chair, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, School of Medicine

## Creative blitz benefits nonprofits

More than 40 students from the VCU School of Mass Communications participated in the first CreateAthon onCampus program, March 13-14. The students devoted a portion of their spring break to assisting 12 local nonprofits with their advertising and marketing needs. Community professionals also volunteered during the 24-hour marathon session, serving as team mentors.

VCU is the first university in the country to adapt this successful professional agency program to the college environment.

## Faculty honors

**Brian T. McMahon, Ph.D.**, professor,  
Department of Rehabilitation Counseling  
Kevin Karr Innovative Rehabilitation  
System of the Year Award

**Raj Rao, Ph.D.**, assistant professor,  
Department of Chemical and Life  
Science Engineering  
National Science Foundation Career Award

**Judy VanSlyke Turk, Ph.D.**, APR, Fellow  
PRSA, School of Mass Communications  
2008 Thomas Jefferson Award for  
Excellence in Public Relations

## Four students win Goldwater Scholarships

Four VCU Honors College students received the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship, the premier national scholarship for undergraduate math, science and engineering students.

VCU is one of only eight schools in the U.S. to claim four Goldwater Scholars among this year's group of recipients. VCU's Goldwater Scholars are Jeannette Aiken, a junior from Gainesville, Va., majoring in forensic science and biochemistry; John Bajacan, a senior from Springfield, Va., majoring in chemistry; Mary Beth Bird, a junior from Lexington, Va., majoring in biomedical engineering; and Allison de Groot, a junior from Washington, D.C., also majoring in biomedical engineering.

"We are proud of these students for earning this extremely competitive honor," says Stephen D. Gottfredson, provost and vice president for academic affairs at VCU. "With their success, these students illustrate the outstanding scholarship and teaching excellence at VCU in the fields of math, science and engineering."

Goldwater Scholars are selected on the basis of academic merit. This year, 321 scholarships were awarded to sophomores and juniors from a field of more than 1,000 applicants. The one- and two-year scholarships cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board up to a maximum of \$7,500 per year.



(From left) Mary Beth Bird, Allison de Groot, Jeannette Aiken and John Bajacan

## Singers pay tribute to Olympics

The Commonwealth Singers, a select choral ensemble of VCU, appeared in concerts in Beijing and Shanghai during a Mid-Atlantic Choral Tribute to the 2008 Beijing Olympics, May 27 to June 5.

John Guthmiller, director of choral activities and chairman of VCU's Department of Music, conducted the group as well as ensembles from four other schools in concerts at the Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing and at the Cultural Arts Center in Shanghai.

The concerts showcased the work of more than 230 performers, including a Chinese orchestra and Chinese soloists, and drew large audiences, with more than 1,000 attending the Shanghai performance.

## Dr. Trani signs national green compact

In April, VCU President Eugene P. Trani, Ph.D., signed a national compact among college presidents to address global warming by working to neutralize greenhouse gas emissions on campuses. The American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment represents an initiative to reduce the global emission of greenhouse gases by 80 percent by midcentury.

Earlier this year, VCU's Student Government Association urged university administrators

to seek ways for VCU to embrace sustainability in design and stewardship.

"This type of formal compact highlights VCU's commitment to work with universities across the country to demonstrate leadership in the community by modeling ways to minimize emissions that contribute to global warming," Dr. Trani says.

In addition to efforts already in place across VCU's campuses to conserve energy and reduce emissions, VCU is constructing several buildings to LEED standards, the nationally accepted benchmark for optimal energy and environmental design and construction.

## VCU, W&M partner on health policy

VCU and the College of William and Mary have formed a signature collaboration to address health policy. The VCU-William and Mary Health Policy and Law Initiative will bring together faculty and students from VCU's L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, the VCU School of Medicine and the William and Mary Law School to conduct research and provide public service. The initiative's first service-learning project, set for January 2009, is a Veterans Disability Clinic.

Future plans include offering joint degree programs that focus on solving topical problems in health policy, law and bioethics.





Barnes & Noble @ VCU flags fly outside the Monroe Park Campus bookstore.

## Barnes & Noble comes to campus

VCU welcomed national bookseller Barnes & Noble to campus this summer — providing new bookstore options filled with a wider range of publications and resources, including access to more used books.

Barnes & Noble will integrate its national image with VCU's own distinct identity at both campus bookstores. Renovations to the Barnes & Noble @ VCU on the Monroe Park Campus were completed this summer, while Barnes & Noble @ VCU Medical Center will begin its upgrades this fall.

## Grad earns Fulbright Scholarship

Jessica Langley (M.F.A.'08/A) has earned a Fulbright Student Scholarship to study and pursue her artistic interests in Iceland. Langley will travel to Iceland for the 2008-09 academic year to study the country's landscape and to create art inspired by her surroundings. Upon her return to the U.S., Langley hopes to increase the exchange between Icelandic and American artists.

Langley is the fourth VCU student to receive a Fulbright Scholarship in the past three years.

## Partnership aids ASD instruction

VCU and 15 public school divisions in Central Virginia have formed a partnership that will provide training and professional development for teachers of students with autism spectrum disorders. The Region 1 Autism Education Consortium will provide educational opportunities to benefit nearly 1,000 children with ASD. The consortium also plans to create a structure for schools to access staff development resources, implement research-based practices and methodologies, and enhance and build parent partnerships.

## Research report

### Study identifies gene with possible link to schizophrenia

VCU researchers have identified a gene associated with schizophrenia that could provide further insight about the pathophysiology of the disease.

Led by Xiangning Chen, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychiatry and human genetics in VCU's School of Medicine, and Kenneth S. Kendler, M.D., professor of psychiatry and human genetics in VCU's School of Medicine, the research team studied variants of the gene, MEGF10, in affected and unaffected individuals from Ireland and Northern Ireland. Supported in part by the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression, the team found that some variants of MEGF10 had a higher frequency in schizophrenia patients than in healthy controls, and these variants were associated with higher expression of the gene in the brain of affected subjects.

This "provides evidence that a gene directly involved in apoptosis, or cell death, is associated with schizophrenia," Chen says. "Apoptosis has long been speculated to be involved in schizophrenia, but no gene directly involved in this process was found to be associated with the disease."

### Anti-cancer drug combination induces cell death in CML

VCU Massey Cancer Center researchers have discovered that a combination of anti-cancer compounds kills chronic myelogenous leukemia cells previously resistant to conventional forms of therapy.

Imatinib mesylate inhibits the activity of a mutant protein, known as Bcr/Abl, which is responsible for CML; however, patients eventually become resistant to imatinib mesylate, often through the development of further mutations in the Bcr/Abl protein.

According to Steven Grant, M.D., Massey's associate director for translational research, and co-leader of the cancer center's Cancer Cell Biology Program and senior author of the study, resistance to imatinib mesylate prompted the search for newer agents.

Working under grants from the National Institutes of Health, the V Foundation, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of America, and the Department of Defense, Grant and colleagues examined the effects of combining MK-0457, a Bcr/Abl kinase inhibitor, with vorinostat, a drug recently approved for the treatment of cutaneous T-cell lymphoma. They found that this combination leads to a dramatic induction of programmed cell death in CML cells, including imatinib-resistant cells.

Preclinical studies are under way to test whether it may be possible to develop a clinical regimen based on these findings.

### Trend in waterpipe smoking signals future health problem

More U.S. college students are smoking tobacco using waterpipes, or hookahs, and it's becoming a growing public health issue, according to a new study led by Thomas Eissenberg, Ph.D., associate professor in the VCU Department of Psychology.

Under grants from the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the Fogarty International Center, Eissenberg and his research team conducted a cross-sectional study of approximately 744 students, mostly between the ages of 18 and 21. Approximately 43 percent of those surveyed had smoked tobacco using a waterpipe in the past year; and 20 percent of them had smoked tobacco using a waterpipe in the past month. In addition, users were more likely to perceive waterpipes as less harmful than cigarettes compared to those who had never used a waterpipe before.

According to Eissenberg, current and prospective waterpipe tobacco smokers should be made aware that waterpipe tobacco smoking is not as benign as they might think. Waterpipe smoke and cigarette smoke contain some of the same toxins — disease-causing tar and carbon monoxide, as well as dependence-producing nicotine.







# Fortieth and forward

Virginia Commonwealth University celebrates its first 40 years with an eye toward the future

The 40th anniversary of Virginia Commonwealth University revisits a historic moment in higher education, when in 1968 the General Assembly established an urban university in the heart of Richmond. With more than 32,000 students, VCU today represents the state's largest public university and embodies academic and research excellence indelibly tied to the histories of its founding institutions — the Medical College of Virginia and Richmond Professional Institute. This year, the university celebrates the important milestones that have helped shape VCU and the vision for tomorrow's possibilities.







A UNIVERSITY'S

*Roots*

by Erin Egan

Virginia Commonwealth University's legacy continues in the tradition of two celebrated institutions



Forty years ago, the Virginia General Assembly enacted a bold concept when it used the infrastructure of two separate institutions, a medical college and an entrepreneurial professional institute, to create Virginia Commonwealth University. The founders involved in the university's creation might not recognize the current VCU — one of the top research universities in the country. Their underlying vision of this urban university, however, remains.

VCU's story begins in the early 1960s when support increased for Richmond Professional Institute to become a full-fledged university. In 1965 RPI experienced the largest enrollment increase in its history. That same year, the Higher Education Study Commission, chaired by state Sen. Lloyd C. Bird, concluded that the Richmond area needed a "bold, new development," in other words, a major university. The Bird Commission recommended combining two existing institutions, RPI and the Medical College of Virginia, to create this university. The rationale behind the proposed union was that the two schools would be a formidable combination, stronger together than each was on its own.

The idea of pooling the resources of MCV and RPI made sense and, to many people, seemed like a natural fit. At the time of the commission's report, the two schools already intersected in many areas. RPI's public health program had been using MCV facilities and faculty since its inception. Plus, a number of cooperative programs existed between the two institutions, including a joint doctorate in clinical psychology. By the 1960s, MCV students were taking English, history, statistics and economics courses at RPI or with RPI instructors who worked as adjunct faculty at the medical school.

Following the Bird Commission's report findings, the 1966 General Assembly formed another group to go forward with a plan for the state university. Edward A. Wayne Sr., president of the Richmond Federal Reserve Bank, chaired the commission. Wayne's vision for the school took the Bird Commission's recommendation a step further. He proposed not a merger of RPI and MCV, but instead the creation of a completely new entity with the two schools as its components.

The commission's report was unanimous and recommended the establishment, effective July 1, 1968, of "an urban-oriented state university in Richmond to embrace



and build upon the Medical College of Virginia and the Richmond Professional Institute."

Members of the commission contended that "an urban-oriented university is unique in that its basic philosophy concentrates on meeting the needs of an urban population living and working in an urban environment. The city is truly its living laboratory."

The commission's recommendation, supported by the governor and the General Assembly, created VCU. After considering other sites for the university, including locations in Henrico, Chesterfield and Hanover counties, the report recommended that the existing location realized the "urban university" concept.

Any initial concerns about the creation of VCU lessened over the years as the university took shape. Each of the university's four presidents — Warren W. Brandt, Ph.D., T. Edward Temple, Ph.D., Edmund F. Ackell, M.D., D.M.D., and Eugene P. Trani, Ph.D. — built on the work and vision of his predecessor to fulfill the university's mission of teaching, research, public service and patient care. The original concept that emerged from the Bird and Wayne commissions of an urban university using the city as its laboratory continues to resonate today as students on the MCV Campus and Monroe Park Campus engage in these areas under one very expansive roof.

Today, VCU stands as the largest public university in the state, tripling its student body to more than 32,000, and ranks among the top 100 universities in the country in sponsored research. To commemorate the university's anniversary and acknowledge its tremendous growth in such a short time, a Virginia Senate Joint Resolution introduced by state Sen. Donald McEachin designated July 1, 2008, as VCU Day. The resolution recognizes VCU "as a leader in teaching, research, public service and patient care for the city of Richmond, the commonwealth of Virginia and the United States."

As VCU looks toward the next 40 years and beyond, the university takes pride in the rich history and accomplishments of MCV and RPI. Through the blending of campuses, faculties, staffs and academic programs, VCU embodies the vision of those who believed in a strong single institution shaped by a common mission and shared goals.

**Above:** State Sen. Donald McEachin (left), joined by VCU President Eugene P. Trani, Ph.D., and VCU Board of Visitors Rector Tom Rosenthal, officially declares July 1, 2008, as Virginia Commonwealth University Day.

**Left:** Gov. Mills E. Godwin Jr. signs the legislation on March 1, 1968, to create VCU.







# The evolution of VCU

*Four decades of growth propel Virginia Commonwealth University's mission of*  
**TEACHING, RESEARCH, PUBLIC SERVICE AND PATIENT CARE**

*by Erin Egan*

Once the ink dried on Gov. Mills E. Godwin Jr.'s 1968 legislation that created Virginia Commonwealth University, the new entity fashioned from the Medical College of Virginia and Richmond Professional Institute began to forge its own identity.


Forty years ago, VCU's footprint encompassed approximately 110 acres and the student body totaled 10,000. Today, its size exceeds 140 acres and 32,000 students.

"VCU had none of the physical presence nor the stature that it does today," says **Hugh Keogh** (M.S. '81/MC),

president of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, "but it was impeccable at catering to the needs of the full-time professional." Like many VCU students then, Keogh worked during the day and took classes at night.

A more mature student body was the norm at that time. "The movement in Virginia toward everybody getting a higher education was on," says **Ed Peeples Jr., Ph.D.**, (B.S. '57/E), VCU associate professor emeritus of preventive medicine and community health, "so people were showing up at the door."





The Academic Division of the University — later called the Academic Campus and now known as the Monroe Park Campus — encompassed a handful of buildings, many of them historic landmarks, within a few-block radius. "It was just a small, cobble-stone campus back in those days," says **Ken Magill**, Ed.D., (B.S. '65/B; M.S. '69/E), retired associate professor in the VCU School of Education.

The Health Sciences Division — now known as the MCV Campus — was equally compact, sitting in a square between Broad and Leigh streets. Many of the instructors were local physicians who taught as adjunct faculty in whatever rooms were available. "The MCV Campus was very much a town medical school," Peebles remembers.

Facilities did not immediately improve with the stroke of Godwin's pen. Witnesses to VCU's emergence from its two parent institutions, however, recall it as an exciting time. "In the early days of VCU, it was a kind of a Mickey Rooney-Judy Garland kind of school," says Lester Van Winkle, professor emeritus in the School of the Arts, who joined VCU in 1968. "It was like, 'Yeah, we've got an old building over here and we've got some students. We'll make some classrooms.' There was that sort of flavor to the school."

The vital faculty and engaged students enlivened the place, but space was certainly at a premium in those early days. The Anderson Building, home to the current Anderson Gallery, was the de facto library. Needless to say, the site was inadequate even though the volume of titles and journals was exponentially fewer than the number VCU has today.

"The Department of History had about six or eight cardboard boxes of books on the third floor of that building and that was the complete history holding," says William Blake Jr., Ph.D., a professor of history since 1965, at RPI, then at VCU. "Now, we've got thousands of history books. We went from a few hundred books to literally thousands and thousands of history volumes."

Peebles remembers teaching in the Anderson Building among the piles, giving new meaning to library "stacks." "The books were all over the floor," he says. "If somebody tipped them over, they would never find what they were looking for."

At this time of transition, VCU used the resources available to accommodate students and faculty while working out its growing pains. As Keogh says, VCU was still clearly emerging and beginning "to flex itself a little bit as an attractive option for higher education in Virginia."

4<sup>th</sup>



## THE BRANDT STAMP

With the naming of Warren W. Brandt, Ph.D., as VCU's first president, the wheels began moving to mold the university into a place where students could earn a top-notch education in a stimulating and comfortable environment. Brandt also had the very difficult job of uniting the two administrations — each with its different facilities, processes and rules — into one cohesive unit.



Warren W. Brandt

Combining the two previous institutions was not an easy sell at first, says Blake, who as the first president of the VCU Faculty Senate helped bridge the gap between the two campuses. It was a bit of a challenge, he says, "because the people at MCV had a long tradition."

John Borgard, Ph.D., associate dean of undergraduate academic affairs from 1999 to 2004, first came to VCU in 1971. He says RPI traditions fueled corresponding feelings on the Academic Campus, with some faculty resisting change.

*"A lot of people wanted the university to continue to be an RPI atmosphere because it was kind of an 'in' atmosphere and to go big would not be true to the beginnings of this school."*

*- John Borgard, Ph.D., former associate dean of undergraduate academic affairs*

"A lot of people wanted the university to continue to be an RPI atmosphere because it was kind of an 'in' atmosphere and to go big would not be true to the beginnings of this school."

Slowly, faculty members became energized by the direction the university and Brandt were headed. He had definite ideas of how to enhance the student experience and pushed for summer orientation programming in which each freshman student talked with an adviser for 30 minutes. "It was something that Brandt talked about and we said, 'That's a good idea,'" says Borgard. "It was a big part of getting students off to a good start."

During Brandt's administration, VCU became Virginia's largest university with 17,000 students. The university responded to the demand by adding 32 new degree programs and the schools of Allied Health Professions and Community Service. Just as important, the construction and acquisition of numerous buildings strengthened the university's infrastructure in order to emphasize Brandt's vision for expansion of research opportunities, programs and schools to come.

The structures built or acquired during Brandt's tenure included the James Branch Cabell Library (just the first floor; the other three would be built in 1975), Rhoads Hall and the School of Business building on the Academic Campus, and an addition to the Tompkins-McCaw Library and expansion to Sanger Hall on the medical campus.

Despite the flurry of building, the campus still felt spread out. "When I arrived, I was really kind of unsure about where VCU was," says Greg Wingfield (B.S. '74/H&S; M.U.R.P. '76/H&S), president and CEO of the Greater Richmond Partnership. "It wasn't like you walked through the gates and said, 'Here I am.' VCU was here, there and everywhere."

Students had no real gathering place. The University Student Commons did not exist; it would not be built for another decade. Students soon discovered the Shafer Court corridor and it became the unofficial hangout. "That was kind of ground zero for student life back then," Wingfield says.

Marsha Shuler (B.S. '74/B), senior vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, recalls having her business classes in various old buildings on Franklin Street. When the School of Business building was finished in 1972 "that made a huge difference as far as students getting to know one another and having the capability to study together," she says.

Brandt's tireless efforts to establish VCU as a university of high academic standing ended with his retirement in 1974 and laid the groundwork for his successor.

## A BRIEF REIGN

Inaugurated in 1975, VCU's second president, T. Edward Temple, Ph.D., died after only 21 months in office. Still, he managed to create a lasting legacy. As president, he revamped VCU's administrative structure and developed a "traveling road show" to showcase the university to the public.



T. Edward Temple







"He had a magic with people," Peebles notes. "He served the great purpose of legitimizing VCU among state people."

Temple also campaigned for a new hospital on the medical campus, which improved relations between the two campuses. "He would take in people's opinions and he'd put them to work," Peebles says. "But Ed Temple added a social-psychological dimension that was so necessary and he underscored the urban mission and the service side of things."

After H.I. Willett served as interim president for one year, Edmund F. Ackell, M.D., D.M.D., became VCU's third leader. A former dentistry professor and the vice president for health affairs and special assistant for governmental affairs at the University of Southern California, Ackell further united and expanded the two campuses.

### A BUILDING BOOM

Ackell's 12-year tenure marked the beginning of a period of major development for the university. VCU experienced its largest growth spurt up to that time, with a budget that ballooned from \$135 million to \$432 million. The student population topped 20,000, so one of Ackell's main focuses was additional construction. During this stint, a new hospital, a cancer center (now the Massey Cancer Center), a student commons, a performing arts center, a pharmacy building, a residence hall, athletic facilities and two parking decks added to the growing campus footprint.

With the addition of the first phase of Gladding Residence Center, completed in 1979, VCU moved from strictly a commuter school to a more traditional university where students lived on campus. "Students now had a chance to engage themselves on the campus in ways that they didn't in the 1970s and before that," Borgard remembers.

As more students remained on campus, VCU branched into the safety business. "VCU really was on



"The obvious change is the diversity. Where it was a black-and-white campus 30 years ago, it's now international. It mirrors society today."

— Jerry Williams (B.F.A. '71/A), writer, director and producer of commercials and videos

the cutting edge of that," Borgard says. "The university was doing card swipes to get into dorms and having 24/7 presence at the front door before lots of colleges and universities."

At the same time, VCU's commitment to education continued as increased numbers of community college and transfer students found a home at the university. The university's population gradually shifted from mature working adults to more full-time college-age students. However, VCU still offered nontraditional students a place to earn an exemplary higher education and created innovative new degree programs to suit them.

Gale Crowder (B.G.S. '86/H&S), who volunteers in the Richmond arts community, earned a Bachelor of General Studies — now called a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies — after a 25-year hiatus in her education. "It was a very unique program originally set up for older people who had some college or university but who hadn't finished," she says.

While Crowder was nervous about returning to school, she felt welcome at VCU. In fact, she was often recognized around town. "Never did it dawn on me that I stuck out," she says. "One day I thought, 'I guess that's how they know me because I don't look like everyone else.'"

VCU was and still is known for the individuality of its students. "It used to be it was long hair and then it was piercings and now it's tattoos, but you still see the same kind of kids," says Jerry Williams (B.F.A. '71/A), a writer, director and producer of commercials and videos. "The obvious change is the diversity. Where it was a black-and-white campus 30 years ago, it's now international. It mirrors society today."







15



1



3



4



14



12



11



13



10



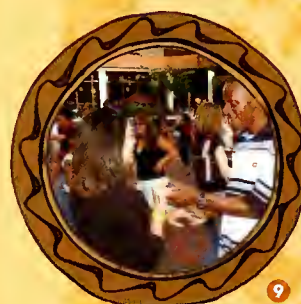
7



5



8



9



# WHAT'S ON THE WALL?

Think you know VCU's history?

Test your knowledge in our special 40th anniversary quiz.

1. Homecoming float from the 1970s, a precursor to today's events during the Rams basketball season 2. VCU men's basketball star Eric Maynor, an instant Rams legend after his game-winning jumper over Duke University in the 2007 NCAA Tournament 3. 12-story Johnson Hall, housing students near Monroe Park since 1964 4. George J. Oliver, Ph.D., RPI president from 1959 to 1967 5. Award-winning Shafer Court Dining Center, feeding the VCU community since 2004 6. "Grace Street from Gladings," an oil-on-canvas painting by artist Theresa Pollek, who was instrumental in creating what is now VCU's nationally ranked School of the Arts 7. Entrance to the student commons shared by Snead and East halls on the 11-acre Monroe Park Campus Addition 8. David Hume, M.D., (far right) founder of MCV's clinical transplant program, and H.M. Lee, M.D., (second from left) with members of the Department of Surgery transplant section in the 1960s 9. Students in front of the University Student Commons, providing space for student activities and events, particularly for VCU's growing residence hall population, since 1984 10. The Shafer Court compass, a Monroe Park Campus gathering spot surrounded by Hibbs Hall, the Shafer Court Dining Center and James Branch Cobell Library 11. Grace E. Harris, Ph.D., former VCU provost and namesake for Harris Hall, formerly the School of Business building 12. Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band, 1973 performers at the Franklin Street Gym (photo by Jeff Crossens) 13. The white coat, ceremoniously given to incoming medical, pharmacy and dental students since the late 1990s to mark the start of their education 14. Jim Elam, a 1973 graduate of the School of Social Work and the university's first African-American student government president 15. William E. Massey Jr., Gordon D. Ginder, M.D., and Morgan Massey, in 2008 celebrating the 25th anniversary of the naming of the VCU Massey Cancer Center — Source: "Virginia Commonwealth University" by Ray Bonis, Jodi Kista and Curtis Lyons, available from Arcadia Publishing





"I tend to think of VCU and Richmond as sort of one entity now. You really don't think of one without the other."

*- David Baldacci (B.A. '83/H&S), best-selling author and VCU Board of Visitors member*

## A 21ST-CENTURY UNIVERSITY

By 1990, VCU ranked 64th among the top 100 federally funded research institutions. When Eugene P. Trani, Ph.D., became VCU's fourth president, he built on Ackell's vision and prepared the university to enter the 21st century with explosive growth in the areas of community outreach, research opportunities, and services and resources for students.

"The expansion of buildings and programs has allowed for a lot more diversity at VCU and has set the foundation for us to be a true player for years to come in so many different arenas," says **Nina Sims** (B.S. '93/MC), director of marketing and sales for the Community College Workforce Alliance.

With a student body of 21,000, more than double the size of what it was at the university's beginning, VCU needed room to expand. President Trani looked north toward Broad Street, which largely consisted of abandoned warehouses and storefronts. The \$105 million investment into renovating the area, including building residence halls, a sports arena, a bookstore and an arts building, spurred more than \$100 million in private investment by developers.

"That's just a perfect example of where growth needs to occur to accommodate the university in an area that needed revitalization," says the Greater Richmond Partnership's Wingfield. "It was a marriage that was a win-win on both sides."

VCU's development north included the creation of the Carver-VCU Partnership, a joint venture to build a safe and nurturing environment for those in the neighboring Carver community. The VCU Police increased

patrols while working with residents, and VCU students began mentoring the community's children.

At the same time, four new residence halls, as well as expansion to the University Student Commons, allowed VCU to offer its students a more complete college experience. As an undergraduate living in Rhoads Hall and then Gladding Residence Center, **Michelle Ferrera** (M.S. '01/AHP) appreciated what life in the residence halls had to offer. On the weekends, the university scheduled programs and events to keep students engaged. "The university made the effort to give students a true campus feel," Ferrera says.

The continued growth, recognition and sense of purpose created a feeling of pride across the university. "It was the first time I felt there was a sense of shared aspirations," professor emeritus Van Winkle says. "Suddenly, everybody had a very positive attitude about the place. People felt there was acknowledgment of successes."

## A TURNING POINT

But "the watershed moment" for VCU, Keogh of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce says, occurred in 1995 with the establishment of the School of Engineering. "That was a very important public-private partnership between the commonwealth, the university and the business community," he says. "The area begged for [an engineering school] and they said they'd do it and they did it."

Uniquely designed with a biomedical focus tied to the biotechnology and industrial needs of the Richmond region, the engineering school — a key component of President Trani's vision for VCU — followed on the heels of another economic endeavor.







## VCU launches time capsule

Alumni from the 1970s and 1980s will remember the Ask It Booth — once a fixture on Virginia Commonwealth University's Academic Campus. Students volunteered at the booth, located next to Shafer Street Playhouse, and provided directions and information.

What do you remember from your days at VCU?

Share your VCU experience — your memories, photos and videos — through VCU's virtual time capsule. No matter your tie to the university, we want to hear from you. Share your story online at [www.40th.vcu.edu](http://www.40th.vcu.edu).

The opening in 1995 of the Virginia BioTechnology Research Park, a partnership between VCU, the city of Richmond and the state, expanded the university's research possibilities and provided a catalyst for increased collaboration and economic development. Situated on 34 acres adjacent to the VCU Medical Center, the BioTech Park serves as the state's only science park dedicated exclusively to the advancement of biosciences.

VCU soon began to place a stronger emphasis on this burgeoning area, and in 2000, launched a university-wide life sciences initiative that combined the resources and interests of the two campuses.

"Gene Trani has always said the past two centuries have been chemistry and physics and the 21st century is the century of life sciences," says Leonard Smock, Ph.D., VCU professor since 1979 and chairman of the Department of Biology since 1990.

With the creation of VCU Life Sciences, the link between the science departments and the MCV Campus strengthened. Additional facilities, such as the VCU Inger and Walter Rice Center for Environmental Life Sciences — a 342-acre living laboratory on the James River in Charles City County — offer even more chances for partnerships.

Back in the city, the collocation of the schools of Business and Engineering exemplifies VCU's vision for increased collaboration among disciplines.

A major component of VCU's largest capital campaign, which raised more than \$410 million from 1999 to 2008, the 11-acre Monroe Park Campus Addition includes Snead Hall, home to the School of Business, and East Hall, the second building for the School of Engineering, joined by a student commons and shared facilities.

## THE NEXT CHAPTER

The expansion of VCU's campuses has not only improved the university, but it also has sparked a surge in economic development in the city from the Fan to downtown. "VCU has been the driving force," says David Baldacci (B.A. '83/H&S), best-selling author and VCU Board of Visitors member. "I tend to think of VCU and Richmond as sort of one entity now. You really don't think of one without the other."

After 40 years of sustained growth, VCU continues to move forward, at home and abroad. Today, VCU maintains partnerships with 16 international universities, including the VCU School of the Arts in Qatar. Additionally, the university opened campuses in Northern Virginia for the schools of Medicine, Pharmacy and Social Work and plans to further expand its mission locally, regionally and globally.

"I think we will continue to see a real strengthening of our research capabilities, our scholarly productivity," Smock says. "We will continue to attract more and more of the top students and it will continue to get harder and harder to get into VCU."

Additional growth will come, and as many of VCU's administrators, faculty and alumni know, evolution can happen quickly, spur change and lead to greatness.

"The last time I was at VCU, I noticed a lot of banners up," Ferrera says. "I thought, 'Wow! VCU seems to be very proud.' The colors are showing. The banners are flying. Today when kids see all of the state-of-the-art facilities, that bodes well for the school."

*Erin Egan is a contributing writer for Shafer Court Connections.*







## Cabell Library marks the donation of its namesake collection

by Ray Bonis

Above, from left: Francis J. Brooke, VCU's academic vice president; Margaret Freeman Cabell and Maurice Duke, Ph.D., fellow on architect's rendering of the proposed James Branch Cabell Library.

Below: Cabell in his library, 1935.

The April 24, 1963, issue of Richmond Professional Institute's student newspaper, *Prospect*, announced plans to name the new Virginia Commonwealth University library after famed Richmond author James Branch Cabell.

The reclusive writer gained national attention in the 1920s after New York state attempted to suppress the publication of his romantic fantasy, "Jurgen," on grounds that it was pornographic. A renewed interest in Cabell's writing surfaced in the late 1960s — a decade after his death — just as plans for the new library were under way.

In January 1967, **Edgar MacDonald, Ph.D.**, (B.S. '52/H&S), an English professor at Randolph-Macon College, spoke at the Woman's Club of Richmond about Cabell's relevance to the city.

E. Allan Brown, Ph.D., (1914-1985), chair of RPI's English department, attended the lecture and walked away with the idea to name the new library after Cabell.

"Allan was concerned that the proposed university or the new library might be named after Sen. Harry F. Byrd Sr. or some other politician," says MacDonald, author of "James Branch Cabell and Richmond-in-Virginia."

That same year, RPI English professor Maurice Duke, Ph.D., began compiling a catalog of Cabell's 3,000-volume personal library for his dissertation.

"I personally handled and described every book in the collection," says Duke, now professor emeritus of English at VCU. "I did all the work after meeting with classes each day. I typed the whole [catalog] on the black marble-top table using Cabell's ancient typewriter, both of which are now in the Cabell Room" on the library's fourth floor.

Duke and MacDonald overwhelmingly supported Brown's naming campaign and so did RPI's Board of Visitors.

"Cabell would have been childishly delighted with the idea of a library named after him," MacDonald says. "It would have meant a type of acceptance from Richmond that he didn't receive when he was alive."

In the wake of the board's decision, Margaret Freeman Cabell, James Branch Cabell's second wife, donated the library's first collection — Cabell's extensive library, which includes F. Scott Fitzgerald first editions signed by the author and early editions of Mark Twain's work.

In 1975, the collection and the Cabell Room opened to the university community along with the library's top three floors; the first floor opened in 1970. At the library's formal dedication, in 1976, then VCU President T. Edward Temple, Ph.D., commented on the tremendous role libraries play in academic life: "Without a library, there is indeed no university."

Ray Bonis (B.S. '88/MC) is assistant archivist at the James Branch Cabell Library.





# THE **BIG** PICTURE





**RETROSPECTIVE** > Photos taken throughout the years capture moments in Virginia Commonwealth University's history. See how many milestones and memories you can identify and then turn to Page 37 to check your answers.





An aerial, sepia-toned photograph of a city plaza. In the foreground, a large, light-colored star pattern is painted on the pavement. Numerous people are walking across the plaza. In the background, there are various city buildings, including a prominent multi-story building on the left and a large, modern-looking building on the right. The overall scene is a busy urban environment.

# Bridging *the* gap

By Melanie Irvin Solaimani



# Annual gifts replenish the resources needed to offer education at an affordable cost

When **Debby Engelbrecht MacArthur** (B.F.A. '72/A), a Connecticut-based jewelry designer, visited Richmond, Va., recently, the Floyd Avenue apartment she called home during college looked exactly the same. But her alma mater sure didn't.

"The school looks wonderful," she says. "I couldn't believe how much it has expanded."

In the 36 years since MacArthur graduated, Virginia Commonwealth University has undergone a major evolution.

In 1968, the General Assembly fashioned VCU from the Medical College of Virginia and Richmond Professional Institute. At that time, the state-supported university offered 10,000 students approximately 80 degree programs in 13 schools and two departments. Today, VCU enrolls more than 32,000 students in 205 certificate and degree programs in the arts, sciences and humanities. Sixty-five of the programs are unique in Virginia, many of them crossing the disciplines of VCU's 15 schools and one college.

In addition, new buildings have sprouted up throughout the city and others have undergone significant renovations, drastically changing the landscape of VCU's campuses.

As VCU has transformed, support from the commonwealth of Virginia has not kept pace, echoing a growing trend in higher education across the nation, says Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs **Stephen D. Gottfredson, Ph.D.**

"When I began my career as a university educator, about 75 percent of any public university's budget came from its state's general fund, and about 25 percent came from all other sources. And by all other sources — I mean tuition and fees, I mean private gifts and endowments and I mean federal, state or industry grants and contracts for research and services," he says. "Today, 30 years later, that picture is just about reversed: about 25

percent of a major public university's budget comes from its state's general fund, and about 75 percent comes from those other sources."

That's where alumni such as MacArthur help make a difference.

For more than 20 years, MacArthur has made annual gifts of unrestricted dollars to the VCU School of the Arts. Now in a financial position to give back, she says she sees it as an important responsibility.

"I read a lot, and I know schools cannot survive on tuition and state support alone," she says.

Unrestricted annual gifts support the most-pressing initiatives at a certain time, such as student scholarships, improvements in clinical and classroom facilities, faculty support, technology advancements and more.

Retired SunTrust executive **Bill Ginther** (B.S. '69/B; M.S. '74/B) reiterates the importance of annual giving in bridging the gap between the priorities funded by the state and the hopes and dreams of the university.

"VCU is state-supported, which means its budget is affected by the economy," he says. "With the state budget, a lot of institutions are vying for the same dollars. As VCU continues on its upward trajectory in terms of education, it just can't make many inroads relying on an ever-fluctuating state budget."

Likewise, Gottfredson points out that families are being asked to foot more and more of the bill for higher education while students are having a tougher time borrowing money.

"Students from less affluent families are having a harder time attending college," he says. "The average student leaving VCU today with an undergraduate degree takes with her an educational debt of more than \$20,000. And the problem is only going to get worse."

Ginther thinks it is time for more alumni to step up to the plate.



Bill Ginther

There were people who were giving to VCU when I was a student and providing for me. It is now my responsibility to provide.

— Bill Ginther (B.S. '69/B; M.S. '74/B)

"I have the belief that there were people who were giving to VCU when I was a student and providing for me," he says. "It is now my responsibility to provide."

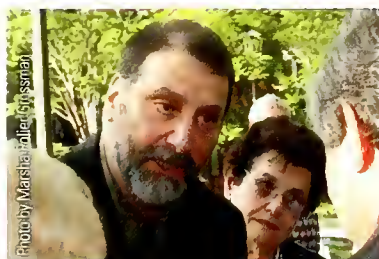
U.S. News & World Report rankings heavily emphasize the percentage of alumni who give, says Ginther, a member of the School of Business Foundation board of trustees. According to Ginther, VCU's record falls below other universities of its stature. "If we could get a donation from every graduate," he says, "we'd be in great shape."

Melanie Irvin Solaimani (B.S. '96/MC) is a contributing writer for *Shafer Court Connections*.



# Alumni Connections

News, highlights and event photos from the Virginia Commonwealth University Alumni Association and the African-American Alumni Council.



Above: Lynn Davidson Spangler (left), Bobbe Lynne Urchin Kennedy, Maureen (McGinnis) Cassada and Alice Mae (Gaskill) Taylor, 1966 graduates of the arts school, enjoy a welcome reception at the new Snead Hall on the Monroe Park Campus Addition. Left: Sculptor Charles Ponticello speaks to alumni at the site dedication of the RPI commemorative sculpture, "Tableith."

## Reunion celebrates RPI's storied history

Graduates from Richmond Professional Institute visited the VCU campus April 25-27 for the annual RPI Reunion Weekend. Alumni enjoyed a welcome reception and tour in Snead Hall, the new home of VCU's School of Business.

During the weekend festivities, alumni dedicated the site of the RPI commemorative sculpture, "Tableith," and artist **Charles Ponticello** (M.F.A. '94/A) gave an overview of the project, explaining his vision and the symbolism of the artwork.

After the site dedication, RPI alumni enjoyed a seated dinner in the VCU Scott House, where VCU President Eugene P. Trani, Ph.D., spoke and encouraged them to continue their support of VCU. The RPI Planning Committee is currently exploring the feasibility of financially supporting scholarships in the name of Richmond Professional Institute.

## AAAC enjoys annual weekend of activities

The annual African-American Alumni Council reunion, held April 25-27 during Reunion Weekend, drew approximately 350 alumni and guests to the VCU Monroe Park Campus for weekend activities, such as a dance, Sunday breakfast and park outing that attracted the highest turnout since its inclusion in reunion events.

To kick off the weekend, Richmond favorite and national recording artist Plunky and Oneness wowed the crowd at Friday night's jazz social, while Saturday night's annual dance featured live music from the band F.R.E.N.S.

Sunday's farewell breakfast included a keynote address by the Rev. Duane T. Kay (B.A. '97/H&S), pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church located in Alexandria, Va.



AAAC members celebrate at the annual reunion dance featuring a performance by F.R.E.N.S.

## Alumni receive break on insurance rates

As a VCU graduate, you have access to high-quality security and protection through Liberty Mutual's insurance at competitive, special group rates for auto, home and renter's policies.

Auto insurance benefits include emergency roadside assistance, while home insurance offers 24-hour emergency home repair, personal-property replacement service and a safe homeowner program.

And if you're renting, Liberty Mutual can help you, too, by protecting your possessions, providing liability protection and allowing for a housing backup plan if your apartment is rendered unlivable.

To learn more, visit [www.libertymutual.com/lm/vcuuaa](http://www.libertymutual.com/lm/vcuuaa) or call (800) 835-0894. Be sure to identify yourself as a VCU graduate using group No. 6545.

In addition to group rate insurance, the VCU Alumni Association offers a number of services to benefit its members, including:

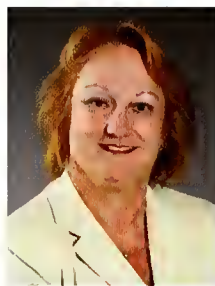
- Eligibility for the VCU Legacy Scholarship, available only to the children and grandchildren of members
- Reduced-priced admission to home athletic events (subject to availability)
- Discounted alumni merchandise at the new Barnes & Noble university bookstore and at [www.clubcolors.com/vcu](http://www.clubcolors.com/vcu)



## Association welcomes new board members

The VCU Alumni Association board of directors met in July for a planning retreat where they worked to revise the board's mission statement and set goals for the coming year. The board also elected the following new members:

- **Leah L.E. Bush** (B.S. '80/H&S, M.D. '84/M), chief medical examiner, commonwealth of Virginia
- **Gregory B. Fairchild** (B.S. '88/MC), professor, Darden School of Business, University of Virginia
- **Aaron R. Gilchrist Jr.** (B.S. '03/MC), anchor, WWBT-NBC12
- **Christopher R. Jones** (B.S. '01/En), engineer, Qimonda
- **Paul D. McWhinney** (B.S. '74/SW; M.S. '79/SW), director of family services, Virginia Department of Social Services
- Presidential appointee **John S. Philips** (M.S. '78/B), investment adviser, Clear Point LLC



Leah L.E. Bush



Gregory B. Fairchild



Aaron R. Gilchrist Jr.



Christopher R. Jones



Paul D. McWhinney



John S. Philips

## What is that tower behind Ginter House?

If you've walked along or driven down the 900 block of West Franklin Street, just before you get to Shafer Street, on the right, you may have noticed a 14-foot-tall tower of brownstone-colored discs.

"Tableith," the first sculpture erected on the Monroe Park Campus in recognition of VCU's history, tells the story of Richmond Professional Institute, but the culmination of the project has an interesting story all of its own.

Three years ago, a group of alumni, meeting to plan a larger-than-usual annual reunion, decided to recognize the beginnings of RPI and its founder, Henry Hibbs, Ph.D. Established in 1917 — just before America entered World War I — to educate social workers and public health nurses, RPI remained under Hibbs' leadership until the establishment of Virginia Commonwealth University in 1968. With a campus location for the commemorative sculpture provided by the university,

the RPI alumni group established a committee to plan a fundraising campaign, invite submissions from artists, and then judge and ultimately select the winning entrant.

Today, "Tableith," created by Richmond sculptor **Charles Ponticello** (M.F.A. '94/A), stands majestically between the historic Ginter House — or the "Ad Building," short for the Administration Building — and the Scott House awaiting its formal dedication in October, during the celebration of VCU's 40th anniversary.

Weighing more than 20 tons, "Tableith" consists of 51 cast discs representing RPI's growth from 1917 until the founding of VCU in 1968. Each disc represents a year in the life of RPI and features an inscription along the edge with a key event from that year.

"The solidarity and power of monolithic structures inscribed with information have been burned into our minds for centuries," Ponticello says. "The marriage of object and

text provides viewers a new and enlightening perspective of RPI. Viewers will experience a spiral tapestry that narrates the historical past of VCU. As the discs build upon one another, they merge and mesh into a strong, interlocking structure, symbolic of harmony, synchronicity and change."

The final phase of the project will be a cobblestone terrace and landscaping around "Tableith," utilizing the 300 original cobblestones saved from the repaving of the alley that led to the old library, now Anderson Gallery.

All RPI alumni and friends, as well as VCU staff, faculty, students, parents and others are invited to attend the RPI Commemorative Sculpture Presentation on Saturday, Oct. 25, or view online at [www.40th.vcu.edu](http://www.40th.vcu.edu).

For more details on the event, contact the VCU Alumni Association at (804) 828-2586 or [vcu-alum@vcu.edu](mailto:vcu-alum@vcu.edu).

— Contributed by Bob Lindholm (B.S. '50/H&S),  
RPI Planning Committee chair



## School alumni boards appoint new members

### School of Business Alumni Board

Frank A. Cavallo Jr. (M.B.A. '06/B)  
Director of sales  
Hamilton Beach Brands Inc.

Brian J. Epley (B.S. '97/B; M.B.A. '04/B)  
Senior manager, program operations  
and business development  
Northrop Grumman Information Technology

Christopher M. Grandpre (M.B.A. '00/B)  
President and CEO  
U.S. Structures Inc.

Karen A. Gregory-Williams (M.B.A. '05/B)  
Lead scientist/project manager of QC microbiology  
Wyeth Pharmaceuticals

John W. Heist Jr. (M.B.A. '96/B)  
Vice president of syndications  
CCA Financial Services LLC

Craig A. Robinson (B.S. '02/B)  
Vice president  
Bank of New York Mellon

Gaurav "G" Shrestha (B.S. '03/B)  
Financial adviser  
Virginia Asset Management

Mary Ann Steiner (B.S. '98/B)  
Senior manager, information systems audit  
Capital One Services Inc.

Curtis E. Stephens (M.B.A. '97/B)  
President  
Marketing Xchange Worldwide LLC

Matthew Tatum (B.S. '03/B)  
Vice president, private financial adviser  
SunTrust

Garland G. Taylor (B.S. '86/B)  
Advertising executive/founding partner  
Taylorweirup Marketing

Jia L. Zhu (B.S. '06/B)  
Financial analyst  
Genworth Financial

**School of Education Alumni Board**  
Deborah Marks (M.Ed. '83/E; Ph.D. '02/E)  
Principal  
Clover Hill High School

**School of Engineering Alumni Board**  
M. David Allen (B.S. '01/En; B.S. '01/H&S; M.S. '04/B)  
Lead database tech engineer  
Mitre Corp.

Britton P. Ellis (B.S. '07/En)  
Simulation analyst  
U.S. Army

Qui Nguyen (B.S. '07/En)  
Control system product engineer  
Alstom Power Inc.



Brian McKelvey, his wife, Susan McKelvey, School of Education Office of Assessment director, and Michael Huffman, School of Education Student Services Center director, hit a few practice balls.

## Golf tournament helps supports education scholarships

The VCU School of Education alumni-sponsored golf tournament took place May 12 at Virginia Crossings Golf Club in Glen Allen, Va. The 13 teams that participated in the event raised \$5,800 to support student scholarships and special seminars, such as grant writing.

## Schools, council recognize outstanding alumni service

The schools of Business and Social Work and the African-American Alumni Council honored alumni this spring for their career achievements and their service to the community and VCU.

The School of Business Alumni Board honored **Frederick D. Facka** (M.S. '92/B) with the 2008 Alumnus of the Year in recognition of his outstanding career achievement and his commitment to the community and the school. Facka recently started his own company, Tuckahoe Asset Management, after spending 10 years as a fully licensed financial adviser in the Richmond, Va., office of Smith Barney Inc., where he advised families, endowments and pension funds. A longtime member of school's alumni board and chair of the branding committee, Facka was the founder and first president of VCU's Association of Real Estate Alumni and was instrumental in establishing an endowed scholarship fund for real estate students.

**Audrey Jordan** (M.S.W. '90/SW; Ph.D. '99/SW) received the second Making a

Difference award from the School of Social Work. The award recognizes doctoral alumni who have distinguished themselves as leaders and innovators in social work scholarship, education, practice/policy or service. Jordan is a senior associate with the Community Change Initiatives unit of the Annie E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore, where she leads the foundation's efforts to define and develop a portfolio of work concerned with strengthening families' positive social networks.

The AAAC selected **Rebekah Pierce** (M.A. '02/H&S) to receive its Outstanding Alumni award for 2008. Pierce was honored during the Department of African American Studies' "Black History in the Making"

awards ceremony Feb. 28. Pierce, editor of *Average Girl Magazine*, is an avid playwright with her works focusing on contemporary women and their search for purpose and identity. In January 2008, Pierce released her first, widely praised short film, "The Briefcase," a story of faith and the American Dream.



Frederick D. Facka



Rebekah Pierce



## VCU Alumni Association travel programs

The VCU Alumni Association has teamed up with AHI Travel and Gohagan and Co. to develop an extensive program of adventures abroad for 2009. Whether observing unique wildlife while cruising down the Amazon, experiencing the stunning coastal scenery of Italian villages or exploring the Gothic cathedrals and medieval castles of Europe, the VCU Alumni Association offers a multitude of adventures for the avid traveler.

For more information on these exciting opportunities, visit [www.vcu-mcvalumni.org](http://www.vcu-mcvalumni.org).

### Legends of the Nile

Jan. 6-17, 2009

Journey to Cairo, Egypt, where you'll visit the Egyptian Museum, shop at the Khan el-Khalili bazaar and discover the religious heritage of Coptic Cairo. You'll explore the Pyramids and the Sphinx of Giza and cruise the Nile River to the Luxor and Karnak temples and the Valley of the Kings and Queens.

### Cruise the Panama Canal

Feb. 5-16, 2009

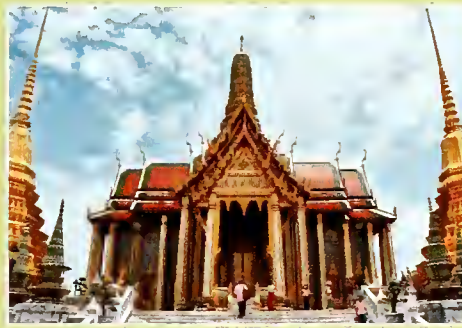
Set sail from Caldera, Costa Rica, and marvel at the Panama Canal — one of the world's most impressive feats of engineering. You'll also journey to Aruba, admire the beauty of St. Maarten, explore the tropical paradise of St. Barthélemy, Guadeloupe, and stroll the stunning white beaches of Tortola.



### Voyage of Discovery: Wonders of the Galápagos Islands

Feb. 20-28, 2009

Join us in the Galápagos Islands and discover a region unmatched in its beauty and its role in the history of natural science. You'll also visit mainland Ecuador, where you can browse the colorful Andean market of Otavalo, explore the magnificent colonial section of Quito and visit a traditional Inca village.



### Coastal Life: Cruising Thailand and the Malay Peninsula

Feb. 26-March 8, 2009

Explore the exotic treasures of Thailand and the Malay Peninsula while sailing the fabled Andaman Sea. You will stroll the bustling markets of Bangkok, discover the beauty of idyllic islands, visit enticing Singapore and experience the diversity and hospitality of Southeast Asia's people during a village forum with local residents.

### Amazon River Expedition

March 6-15, 2009

Cruise down the untamed waters of the exotic Amazon River, where you will trek through lush rainforests and take special excursions down hidden tributaries to visit traditional villages and observe unique wildlife, including gray and pink river dolphins, capuchin monkeys and three-toed sloths.



### The Great Journey through Europe

June 15-25, 2009

Explore the cultural and scenic treasures of the heart of Europe, beginning in Switzerland in the lakeside town of Lucerne and the alpine resort of Zermatt, followed by a five-night voyage down the Rhine River through France, Germany and Holland to Amsterdam.

### Scotland

July 26-Aug. 3, 2009

Walk in the footsteps of William Wallace and Prince Charles Edward Stuart on this adventure showcasing the countryside and fascinating history of Scotland. Visit Oban, the Isle of Mull and its 13th-century Duart Castle, the Isle of Skye's Armadale Castle, the stately castle in Stirling, the Slate Islands and The Trossachs, and enjoy a drive through the scenic Highlands.

### Swiss Alps and the Italian Lakes

Sept. 20-28, 2009

Experience the elegance of St. Moritz, where you'll visit the Alpine village of Zuoz, cross the Alps aboard the Bernina Express and journey to Tirano, Italy, as well as experience the turquoise waters of Lake Como and cosmopolitan Milan, then cruise Lake Maggiore to the Borromean Islands.

### Budapest, Vienna and Prague Discovery

Oct. 4-14, 2009

Travel to Budapest, Hungary, where you'll marvel at its gothic Parliament Building, Opera House and Heroes' Square; Vienna, Austria, where the Ringstrasse, Burgtheater and Hofburg Palace await; and admire the Charles Bridge and Old Town Square, with its Astronomical Clock, in Prague, Czech Republic.

### Italian Riviera

Oct. 17-25, 2009

Explore the village of Sestri Levante and the church of Santa Margherita d'Antiochia before cruising to Portofino and its Punta del Capo lighthouse. You'll also discover Christopher Columbus' house in Genoa, visit Portovenere and Vernazza, review marble sculptures in Carrara and explore the city of Lucca.

### Austrian Holiday Markets Discovery

Nov. 24-Dec. 2, 2009

Visit Austria's Salzburg and Vienna, where you'll visit the town of Melk and its stunning baroque Abbey, and enjoy optional excursions to featured sites from "The Sound of Music," a full-day adventure in the Alps and Grinzing, famous for its traditional Henriger restaurants.





# Giving back

## Alumni benefit from reinvesting in their alma mater

What is the secret to making a gift to Virginia Commonwealth University that holds meaning for you and makes a lasting impact? A bequest.

"Bequests are a great way to ensure future excellence at VCU," says Tom Burke, executive director of the VCU Foundation.

Because the needs of students and the university change each year, the unrestricted funds generated from bequests give the president flexibility to respond to the most pressing needs of the moment, Burke says.

"We are glad to be 'last in line' and are always thankful to be included in an alumnus's will or even considered for a bequest," he says.

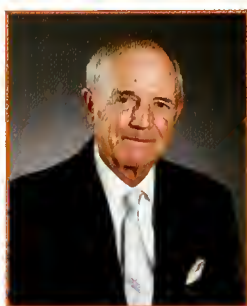
### James Lester: Embracing opportunity

**James Lester** (B.S. '62/B), a former president of the RPI Alumni Association, likes to stay involved with his alma mater because engagement helps keep him sharp.

"At 73, I'm very interested in staying mentally active. The more I stay involved, the more I learn and the better I am," he says.

One way he has stayed connected is through the VCU Heritage Society. He and his wife, Faye, gained membership to this group by including VCU in their estate plan. The society offers members special opportunities for attending lectures, performances and other events.

"Planned giving allows you to determine what you would like the gift to support and lets you meet with your advisers to determine the most effective giving method for tax purposes," Lester says. "This was the most efficient tax venue for our charitable giving and gives us flexibility during our lifetime."



James Lester

### Joseph Holicky III: Supporting student scholarship

A three-degree alumnus of VCU and longtime state employee, **Joseph Holicky III** (B.S. '76/B; B.S. '77/H&S; M.S. '78/B) recognizes the skyrocketing costs of education.

"The cost of education is in the stratosphere," he says. "There is no good or easy answer to making college education more affordable."

To help make a difference for students, he and his wife, Irene Burlock, have established endowed scholarships in the schools of Business and Engineering.

But they want to do more and plan to include VCU in their wills.

"With scholarships, we can see the immediate impact and interact with our recipients," Holicky says.

He says he hopes his planned gift, however, will continue to provide benefits to the university long after he's gone.

"The school has gone in unbelievable directions," he says. "I'm proud to be part of the evolution."



Joseph Holicky III

If you are interested in learning more about planned giving strategies and the benefits they can offer, contact Tom Burke, executive director of the VCU Foundation, at (804) 828-3958 or [tcburke@vcu.edu](mailto:tcburke@vcu.edu), or visit the VCU Foundation Web site at [www.vcuf.org](http://www.vcuf.org).



# Class notes

Send information about your professional and personal accomplishments to [shafercourt@vcu.edu](mailto:shafercourt@vcu.edu). Or, mail your news to Shafer Court Connections, Virginia Commonwealth University, 924 W. Franklin St., P.O. Box 843044, Richmond, VA 23284-3044

## 1960s

**David Alexick\*** (B.F.A. '64/A; M.F.A. '66/A) retired from Christopher Newport University after 27 years of service. He will be presenting a retrospective of his 45 years of work, including 52 pieces, at CNU's Ferguson Center for the Arts. His wife, **Anne Menin Gibson-Alexick** (Cert. '52/A) is active as a watercolor artist.

**Jack Amos** (B.F.A. '68/A), emeriti director of the VCU Alumni Association, opened Amos and Randolph Fine Art gallery in Kilmarnock, Va., in April 2008. The gallery features his original oil-on-canvas and acrylic paintings, as well as bronze work by sculpture artist D.E. McDermott, and is a participant in the 2008 First Friday Walkabouts.

**William Beville\*** (B.S. '65/SW) was promoted as the national editorial adviser to the Prentice Hall Higher Education Business Group and is a charter member of Prentice Hall's Leadership Council. He was recently named the Top Manuscript Performer, an award he has received for the past seven years.

## 1970s

**Joe Brodecki** (B.S. '70/H&S; M.S. '77/H&S), principal at Bernstein Global Wealth Management, was appointed by President George W. Bush to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, the governing board of the U.S.

Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. From 1988-93, Brodecki led the fundraising campaign to create the museum.

**Nancy Burks\*** (B.M. '75/A) joined Chamberlayne Baptist Church in Richmond, Va., as minister of music.

**James D. Massay** (A.S. '76/B; B.S. '78/B) owns A+ Typing Service.

**Vicki Maddox Pettus** (B.S. '75/MC) is teaching college reading and English as a second language at Kentucky State University.

**James A. Williams** (B.S. '79/B) was appointed by President George W. Bush in June to serve as administrator of the General Services Administration. For the past two years, Williams served as commissioner of the GSA's Federal Acquisition Service. Prior to that, he served as director of the U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology Program at the Department of Homeland Security.

**Richard E. Williams** (B.S. '70/B) is retired and lives in Pleasanton, Calif.

## 1980s

**Peter Cornell** (B.M. '80/A) is active in the San Francisco Bay area jazz and music scenes, appearing Monday nights at Jazz at Pearl's with a contemporary jazz orchestra. He was also executive producer and a featured soloist

on Louie Romero and Grupo Mazacote's recent CD release, "Timbalero."

**Richard "Rick" Davis** (B.S. '87/B; M.P.A. '93/H&S) lives in Powhatan, Va., with his wife, **Marybeth Davis** (B.S. '87/B), and 14-year-old daughter. He works as an applications development manager with the Department of Corrections where he is currently the project technical lead for VirginiaCORIS.

**Janice Diakun** (B.A. '87/H&S; M.Ed. '07/E) was selected as employee of the month at United Methodist Family Services for February 2008. Diakun is a math teacher at Charterhouse School, for youth who are in the UMFS Residential Treatment program.

**Joyce Eisner-Leverenz** (B.M.E. '81/A) received an M.S. in rehab counseling and is now the manager of an outpatient department at TIRR in Houston.

**Nils U. Gustavsson** (B.F.A. '89/A; M.S. '95/B) is the global commercial and marketing director for DuPont Performance Elastomers in Wilmington, Pa.

**Elizabeth Porter Johnson\*** (B.A. '80/H&S) received the 2007 Salesperson of the Year Award from the Chesapeake Bay and Rivers Association of Realtors. She is broker/owner of the Chesapeake Bay Office of Frank Hardy Realtors in Deltaville, Va.

**Karen Godmere Kanis** (B.S. '81/MC) is a partner and risk management consultant for Texas-based Senior

## Spotlight

### Alumna chooses to 'pay it forward' by giving back

As the vice president of college advancement for Lord Fairfax Community College in Middletown, Va., **Linnie S. Carter**, APR (B.S. '92/MC; M.S. '98/MC) practices what she teaches. A proud Virginia Commonwealth University graduate, she continuously gives back to her alma mater, and talks here about why it's important to stay involved after graduation.

Why is it important for you to stay involved as a VCU alumna?

We are ambassadors for the university and walking billboards. A university and a college are only as strong as their alumni base and we are the people who know the school best. For a school that did so much, it's important for me to stay involved. It's key to give back and pay it forward — those are core values for me.

What was it like to be honored as the 2005 African-American Alumni Council Alumni of the Year?

It was an honor. It's pretty remarkable and very humbling. There are alumni doing great things all over the world and they chose me; I didn't take that lightly.

What guidance do you give students as ways to give back?

They need to give back even if it's just \$5. Colleges and universities are graduating more and more people, so the funds being contributed should be increasing. We all stand on the shoulders of other people who came before us. We need to give back to make sure VCU is around for the next generation of students.



Linnie Carter and John Sygielski, Ed.D., former president of Lord Fairfax Community College



## [CLASS NOTES]

Risk LLC. She has been married to **Ed Kanis** (B.S. '79/MC) for 27 years.

**Daniel L. Moody** (B.S. '81/H&S) resides in Largo, Fla., where he is a construction litigation attorney and is board certified by the Florida Bar as an expert in construction law. He has been recognized by Law and Politics as one of Florida's Superlawyers in 2007 and 2008 and was recently appointed as a special magistrate to hear cases before the county's construction licensing and disciplinary board.

**Venita Weaver Morell** (B.S. '80/H&S; M.D. '83/M) is the medical director of the Okaloosa County Health Department in Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., and is an American Academy of HIV Medicine-credentialed HIV specialist. She celebrated the high school graduation of her triplets — Sara, Adare and Aaron — this past spring.

**Elsie L. Rose, CPA** (B.S. '80/B) was honored at the 99th Virginia Society for CPAs annual meeting with a resolution commending her on her loyalty and support for the VSCPA.

**Greg Siegrist** (M.B.A. '81/B) is vice president for Realty Investment Co. He previously held finance and administration roles in the Washington, D.C., area with Arthur Andersen, Manor Care and SoftMed Systems.

### 1990s

**Beatriz Kane Aldridge** (B.S. '93/MC) is a marketing communications manager at Siemens Medical Solutions in Malvern, Pa. She welcomed her first child in January.

**Todd deKrafft** (B.S. '94/B) is assistant vice president of credit for River City Bank in Mechanicsville, Va.

**Victor Goines** (M.M. '90/A) was recently appointed director of jazz studies at Northwestern University. He was previously the director of jazz at The Juilliard School.

**Diana (Reynolds) Halleman** (B.S. '96/MC) was recently named chairman of the City Personnel Commission in Frederick, Md.

**Marc B. Johnson** (B.A. '99/H&S) has been working with the Office of the Clerk (Legislative Resource Center) since 2007.

**Michelle Fay Johnson\*** (B.S. '95/B) is a senior portfolio analyst with Evergreen Investments-Tattersall Advisory in Richmond, Va.

**Tonya T. Lewis** (B.A. '99/B) is an accountant at VCU.

**Jill M. Mayberry** (B.S. '99/B) is president of First Choice Brokerage in Sapulpa, Calif.

**J. Harrison Moncure** (B.S. '93/B) is president of Moncure and Associates in Mechanicsville, Va.

**David Russell** (B.M. '90/A) served as a synthesist for "Spider-Man 3" and "Ghost Rider" and co-produced the score albums for both films.

**Millard Souers** (B.S. '95/B) is a consultant with VACO.

**Susan P. Stokes** (B.S. '98/H&S) earned her M.B.A. and is a technical project manager at Health Management

## Spotlight

### 1000th paver marks milestone for pathways campaign

Virginia Commonwealth University's Pathways Brick Campaign hit a milestone this spring when **Maureen Noe** (B.S. '74/B) purchased the 1,000th paver to line Shafer Court.

Started in 2002, the campaign allows alumni to carve their legacy in stone and become a permanent part of the university. Assistant Director of the VCU Foundation **Ike Tucker** (M.Ed. '66/E) says the campaign will continue until every brick lining the pathway commemorates a fond memory of VCU.

Noe, who has taught at the Chesterfield Technical Center for nearly 30 years, etched her name and degree into the brick to honor her years spent at VCU. Here, she talks about what it means to leave a lasting mark on VCU's campus.

How does it feel to know that you are the 1,000th contributor to this campaign?

I feel like I'm a part of things in Richmond, and I've been here for a while, and it's nice to continue to be a part of things. I didn't know I'd bought the 1,000th brick, but you just never know. You go through life and you do these things, and you just never know what will come of it.

How did you learn about the Pathways Brick Campaign? It was actually through a flier ... and I looked and said, 'That's a pretty neat thing.' I really am amazed at the transformation of VCU.

What motivated you to purchase a brick? I wanted to contribute, and I thought it would be nifty. Every now and then you want to give back and I thought that was a unique way to do it.



Corp. in Richmond, Va. She has two children in college — one at Longwood and one at VCU.

**Jeanne M. Verostko** (B.S. '91/B) is a corporate accountant with Car Pool in Richmond, Va.

**Lynette Purdy Wakefield** (B.S. '95/H&S; B.S. '97/AHP) is a nuclear technical manager for Cardiology Associates in Fredericksburg, Va., where she helped achieve accreditation through the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Nuclear Medicine Laboratories. She has four children and lives in Spotsylvania, Va.

### 2000s

**Jason Bara** (B.S. '02/En) received his Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Colorado in 2007.

**Blair Beander** (B.S. '04/B) is a contract specialist for General Services Administration in Arlington, Va.

**Stephanie Bishop** (Cert. '06/E) co-edited "Be a Teacher," published by Vandamere Press. The book features experiences from 12 exemplary Virginia educators that encourage young people to become teachers.

**James Buchanan** (M.S.W. '06/SW), a therapist in United Methodist Family Services' Richmond, Va., residential program, was selected as Employee of the Month for April 2008.

**Thomas Cary\*** (B.S. '08/B) is a financial representative with Northwestern Mutual in Richmond, Va.

**Chris Crowley** (B.M. '06/A) is teaching music at Hugh Mercer Elementary School in Fredericksburg, Va.

**Michael Curry** (M.S. '02/E) has been named the new head coach of the Detroit Pistons, the same team he played for six of his 11 seasons in the NBA. The 39-year-old Augusta, Ga., native takes over a team that is coming off an appearance in the NBA Eastern Conference finals. Curry is the first graduate from the VCU SportsCenter program to be named a head coach at the professional level.

**Sara Davenport** (B.M. '07/A) is teaching elementary school music in Fairfax, Va.

**Sharon Diana\*** (B.S. '05/H&S) moved to New Orleans in 2007 where she teaches second grade for St. Charles Parish Public Schools.

## Did you know?

When Richmond Professional Institute separated from the College of William and Mary in 1962, the school created an institutional identity separate from its former green-and-gold tribe. On the recommendation of School of the Arts faculty, RPI opted for blue and gray school colors and, a year later, replaced the Green Devil mascot with the Ram. Virginia Commonwealth University adopted black and gold in 1969 — one year after the General Assembly created VCU with RPI and the Medical College of Virginia as its foundation. Today, the black and gold continues as the rallying symbol for Rams fans everywhere.



**John G. Elms** (B.S. '07/B) is a compensation assistant for Brink's Co.

**Stuart A. Glaser\*** (B.S. '04/B) is a manager with DATAlegro.

**Katie (Stahling) Graham** (B.S. '03/En) is an engineer with Dominion. She and her husband, Keith, reside in Beaverdam, Va.

**Adam Gray** (B.S. '03/En) is employed by Contract Drilling and Blasting. He resides in Jacksonville, Fla.

**Hamoon Hadavand** (B.S. '05/B), of Arlington, Va., is a senior manager of sales and strategic business development at America's Health Insurance Plans.

**Keith Hanlon** (M.M. '05/A) is the instructor of woodwinds and ensemble director at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College in Richmond, Va.

**Richard W. Haselwood** (B.S. '02/MC; B.A. '02/H&S) has lived and worked in Khartoum, Sudan, since 2005. He works with Mercy Corps, an international relief and development agency, where he directs the large-scale Darfur relief operation, as well as the post-conflict recovery operations along the north and south borders.

**Sebastian Herrera** (B.S. '03/En) is a PCB designer with ACDI. He resides in Frederick, Md.

**Igor Jekauc\*** (B.S. '01/B; B.S. '01/En; M.B.A. '04/B) was recently promoted from operational technical supervisor to line control manager for Qimonda North America. His responsibilities include operational management and manufacturing performance of a multibillion-dollar factory and one of the largest semiconductor facilities in the world.

**Kristen Jensen** (B.F.A. '07/A) had her complex digital images featured in the recent issue of American Photo on Campus magazine.

**Michael P. Jones\*** (B.S. '02/B) was hired as a supervisor in the Audit Services Group at Reinsel Kuntz Leshner LLP in Wyomissing, Pa.

**Hannah (Foreman) Killian** (B.S. '04/B) is a benefits consultant and training coordinator with Rutherford Benefit Services, a division of Thomas Rutherford in Richmond, Va.

**Seth W. Krisnow\*** (B.S. '05/B) is an account executive for government VOIP for Spirit Telecom in Columbia, S.C.

**Neil Landini** (B.M. '05/A) is assistant band director at Powhatan High School and a percussion specialist for Powhatan County Public Schools in Virginia.

**Kison Esther Lee** (B.S. '03/En) is an analyst with USPS. She and her husband, Kevin Shin, reside in Washington, D.C.

**Robert Lentner** (B.S. '02/H&S) recently returned from a deployment to Saudi Arabia as a logistic adviser. He is now assigned to Fort Knox, Ky., as assistant regimental plans and operations officer for the 16th Cavalry Regiment.

**Sara Le Roy** (B.M. '07/A) is teaching elementary music for Lakeside and Colonial Trail elementary schools in Henrico County, Va.

**Tammy Lippman** (B.F.A. '05/A) works for Hickok Cole Architects in Washington, D.C. She was awarded the 2008 National Association of Industrial and Office Properties Maryland/D.C. Award of Excellence for Best First Floor Use and was published in Home and Design Magazine.

**Kelly A. Lowe\*** (B.S. '00/B; M.S. '04/B) has joined G4S Justice Service in Richmond, Va., as a marketing specialist.

**Jim Miller** (M.B.A. '03/B) is director of facility management for the HCA John Randolph Medical Center in Hopewell, Va.

**Thomas Mirc** (B.S. '02/B), of Raleigh, N.C., is a project manager of performance measurement, calculation and reporting for Smith Breeden Associates.

**Lisa Moroni** (B.S. '00/B) is a managing partner with Brandevotion in Richmond, Va. She recently worked with the VCU School of Business on a branding project.

**Hilary Noxon** (B.F.A. '03/A), of Chesapeake, Va., worked on the Tony Award-winning "In the Heights." The show received the award for Best Musical, among other categories.

## Obituaries

### VCU School of the Arts mourns the death of longtime dean

Murry N. DePillars, Ph.D., who led Virginia Commonwealth University's School of the Arts for nearly 20 years, died May 31, 2008, at the age of 69.

DePillars served as dean of the VCU School of the Arts from 1976 until 1995 following five years as assistant dean. He was known as an enthusiastic supporter of a wide range of art forms at VCU and a booster for his students.

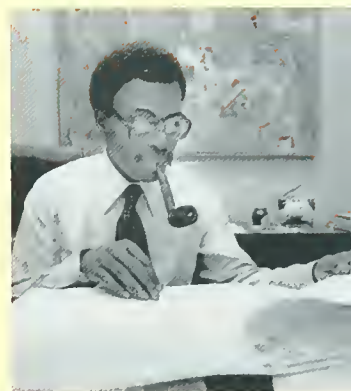
"Murry was a warm and gracious leader, and his focus was always on the students and how we best could serve them," says Joseph Seipel, senior associate dean for academic affairs and director of graduate studies in the School of the Arts. "He was a strong and vocal advocate for the School of the Arts and led us through the majority of our formative years as a school during the 1970s and 1980s.

"I vividly remember seeing Murry with his trademark pipe and aromatic tobacco out in the halls or classrooms spending time with students and faculty," Seipel says. "He was the consummate people person."

Richard Toscan, Ph.D., dean of the VCU School of the Arts, noted that "beyond his administrative role, [DePillars] was a painter of considerable talent."

DePillars' paintings have been exhibited in galleries and museums nationwide. His painting "From the Mississippi Delta, 1997" is in the permanent collection of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond.

DePillars was awarded the title of professor emeritus upon his retirement from VCU and later received the Presidential Medallion, which honors extraordinary commitment in learning and commitment to the mission of VCU.



### Internationally renowned VCU researcher, scientist dies



Billy R. Martin, Ph.D., chair of the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine's Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology and internationally renowned for his research in understanding addiction and drugs of abuse and how they affect the brain, died June 8, 2008. He was 65.

Martin played a prominent role in developing the department's reputation for landmark research in drugs of abuse. For more than 30 years, Martin's primary focus was researching the effects of marijuana's principal psychoactive ingredient, THC.

In 1997, Martin was awarded a National Institutes of Health Method to Extend Research in Time (MERIT) Award for his work. He also headed an international pro-

gram project grant on marijuana for the National Institute of Drug Abuse and served as director of VCU's NIDA Center for Drug Abuse Research, which attracted more than \$20 million in federal funding.

Martin received a Virginia Top Scientist Award in 1998 and the VCU Distinguished Scholarship Award in 1996. He also was the first recipient of the Outstanding Inventor Award from the VCU Office of Technology Transfer in recognition of his multiple patents.

Martin was to receive the Nathan B. Eddy Award on June 15, the highest honor awarded by the College on Problems of Drug Dependence. He also was scheduled to receive the VCU Award for Excellence, the highest honor that VCU bestows on a faculty member, this fall.

"In the face of progressing disease, Billy was undaunted," said Jerome F. Strauss, M.D., Ph.D., dean of the VCU School of Medicine. "He taught us all how to face the toughest of challenges with grace and dignity. Virginia Commonwealth University, the School of Medicine and the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology have lost one of their treasures."



# Alumni Association

## VCUAA officers

C. Dandridge Massey (B.S. '92/B), president  
Donna M. Dalton (M.Ed. '00/E), president-elect  
Patricia E. Green (M.S.W. '74/SW), secretary  
Kenneth "Ken" A. Thomas (B.S. '91/B), treasurer  
Thomas H. Beatty (B.A. '93/H&S), officer-at-large

## School alumni board chairs

Steven B. Brincefield, C.P.M., (M.S. '74/B),  
School of Business  
Stephanie L. Holt (B.S. '74/H&S), School  
of Education  
Julia M. Cain (B.S. '01/En), School of Engineering

## Board of directors

### Term expiring 2009

Peter A. Blake (B.A. '80/H&S; M.S. '88/MC)  
Suzette P. Denslow (B.S. '79/H&S)  
Irvin "Jack" Farmer (B.S. '69/B), presidential  
appointment  
William R. O'Connell Jr. (B.M.E. '55/A)  
Thomas A. Silvestri (M.B.A. '86/B)  
Patricia I. Wright (M.Ed. '84/E)

### Term expiring 2010

Rejena G. Carreras (B.F.A. '70/A; M.A.E. '80/A)  
William L. Davis (B.S. '74/H&S; M.S. '79/H&S)  
David R. Dennier (B.S. '75/B)  
Gary M. Inman (M.A. '93/A)  
Stephen H. Jones (B.S. '75/B)  
Shirley R. McDaniel (B.G.S. '99/H&S)  
Mary E. Perkinson (B.F.A. '91/A; B.S. '03/En)  
John J. Schwartz (B.S. '69/B)  
Vickie M. Snead (B.S. '76/B)

### Term expiring 2011

Leah L.E. Bush (B.S. '80/H&S, M.D. '84/M)  
Gregory B. Fairchild (B.S. '88/MC)  
Aaron R. Gilchrist Jr. (B.S. '03/MC)  
Christopher R. Jones (B.S. '01/En)  
Paul D. McWhinney (B.S. '74/SW; M.S. '79/SW)  
Elizabeth J. Moran (M.P.A. '92/H&S)  
Jacqueline Tunstall-Bynum (B.S. '82/H&S)  
John S. Phillips (M.S. '78/B), presidential  
appointment

## African-American Alumni Council

Franklin Wallace (B.F.A. '87/A), president  
Joseph Tyner (M.S. '92/B), treasurer  
Mary Francis (B.S. '95/H&S), secretary  
Rodney Harry (B.S. '90/H&S), parliamentarian  
Edward Robinson Jr. (B.G.S. '00/H&S; M.S.W.  
'03/SW), AAAC representative

## Young Alumni Council

Gaurav "G" Shrestha (B.S. '03/B), president

# Obituaries



## VCU pioneer in heart transplants dies

Richard R. Lower, M.D., who helped develop the techniques for transplanting a human heart and performed the ninth transplant in the U.S., died May 17, 2008, at his home in Twin Bridges, Mont. He was 78.

Lower was a professor emeritus at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine and former chair of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery.

He came to the VCU Medical Center, then the Medical College of Virginia, in 1965 from Stanford University Medical Center.

In Richmond, Lower and his research team nearly performed the first heart transplant in the world, but a blood incompatibility issue kept them from operating.

On May 25, 1968, Lower performed the first heart transplant in Virginia – just the 16th in the world – and while the patient's survival was short, it led to a landmark change in the legal definition of brain death, a decision that would forever benefit future transplant recipients. He retired from VCU in 1989.

**Jim Opalka** (M.B.A. '03/B) is president of Cobblestone Cellars, a wine wholesale company that he started as a spinoff of one of his projects in the Fast Track Executive M.B.A. program at VCU.

**LaRon Scott** (M.Ed. '06/E), a second-year teacher of students with disabilities at J.R. Tucker High School in Henrico County, Va., was the 2008 recipient of the Division of Career Development and Transition Iva Dean Cook Teacher of the Year Award.

**Diane (Capen) Seaborn** (B.S. '02/B) is working as an information management specialist with the Virginia General Assembly.

**Daniel Seium** (B.S. '05/B) is a rational software sales specialist with IBM in McLean, Va.

**Bree Sison** (B.S. '06/MC) is a reporter with WMBB-News 13 in Panama City, Fla.

**Jason Somma** (B.F.A. '02/A) is featured as part of the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative.

**Emily Thompson** (B.S. '06/H&S) recently earned her M.A.T. in secondary education. She is a chemistry teacher at LaVergne High School and lives in Nashville, Tenn.

**Aileen I. Velez-Cabassa** (B.S. '00/H&S) resides in Maryland where she is employed as a quality control analyst for cell therapy products with a biotechnology company. She recently graduated from Johns Hopkins University with an M.S. in Biotechnology with a regulatory affairs concentration.

**Beau Waldrup** (B.S. '03/En) is a senior researcher for Exxon Mobil. He and his wife, Caroline, reside in Pennsylvania.

**Aqueelah Walker-Tolliver\*** (B.S. '08/B) is a housing program analyst with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development in Richmond.

**Ian J. Wallace** (M.S. '06/H&S) and **Amanda C. Kracen** (M.S. '05/H&S), both students in VCU's counseling psychology doctoral program, released a new book, "Applying to Graduate School in Psychology: Advice from Successful Students and Prominent Psychologists," in May 2008. Published by the American Psychology Association, the book features chapters written and edited by current students and essays from nine of the most prominent psychologists in the U.S.

**Court Watson** (B.F.A. '03/A), of Chesapeake, Va., worked on the set design for "Cry-Baby," which was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Musical, among other categories.

## Faculty and staff

**Edmund O. Acevedo, Ph.D.**, professor and chair of the Department of Health and Human Performance, has been elected to fellow status in the American Psychology Association. Fellow status recognizes APA members who have shown evidence of unusual and outstanding contributions or performance in the field of psychology.

**Taylor Barnett** (B.M. '02/A; M.M. '04/A) recently celebrated the release of his debut CD, "For Someone." The disc, which features the Taylor Barnett 10-tet performing his original compositions and arrangements, received a four-star review in Style Weekly. The disc also featured a host of VCU music alumni, including co-producer and guitarist **Trey Pollard** (B.M. '05/A), trombonist **Bryan Hooten** (M.M. '06/A), saxophonist **Jason Scott** (B.M. '98/A) and pianist **Ryan Corbitt** (B.M. '04/A).

**Susie Ganch**, assistant professor of craft and material studies, was recognized as the NICHE Arts Educator of the Year by American Craft.

**Richard Kuhlbars**, adjunct professor in communication arts, was honored with a Muse award from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts for his project, SoldierHelp.

**Robert Meganck**, a communication arts professor, won Best in Show from the 14th Exhibition of the Illustrators Club of Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia.

**Judy S. Richardson, Ph.D.**, professor emerita in the School of Education, received a Fulbright Scholar grant for the 2007-08 academic year. Richardson used the prestigious award to travel to Tetovo, Macedonia, where she lectured about the development of a reading-to-learn approach. She also taught a course at South East European University and two undergraduate courses at State University of Tetovo.

**Patricia W. Slattum, Pharm.D., Ph.D., CGP\*** (B.S. '85/P; Cert. '92/AHP; Ph.D. '93/P), an associate professor of pharmacy, received the 2008 William B. Abrams Award in Geriatric Clinical Pharmacology. The award is presented by the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics in recognition of young investigators in the field of geriatric clinical pharmacology who are making outstanding contributions to the field.



# Show your support

Join the VCU Alumni Association

## Membership matters

Joining the VCU Alumni Association or African-American Alumni Council provides benefits to Virginia Commonwealth University and to you! Thousands of VCU graduates and friends support the university through membership. Belonging to the alumni association is the best way for you to be part of VCU's great tradition of excellence.

Start your membership in VCUEAA or AAAC today and enjoy exclusive benefits. Annual memberships begin at just \$35, or think big with a lifetime membership for \$350 (payment plans available).

Join online at [www.vcu-mcvalumni.org](http://www.vcu-mcvalumni.org),  
or call (804) 828-2586 or e-mail  
[vcu-alum@vcu.edu](mailto:vcu-alum@vcu.edu) for details.

# VCU

[www.vcu-mcvalumni.org](http://www.vcu-mcvalumni.org)

V i r g i n i a   C o m m o n w e a l t h   U n i v e r s i t y



discounts  
celebrations  
networking  
opportunities  
friendships  
updates  
reunions  
special events





# Update your record and share the news

Tell us about yourself, and we'll update your official alumni record and share the news with your friends and classmates.

## ABOUT YOU

Name ..... Maiden name (if applicable) .....

Class year .....

Street address .....

City ..... State ..... ZIP .....

Home phone ..... Cell phone .....

Home e-mail address .....

## EMPLOYMENT

Job title ..... Start date ..... Retirement date (if applicable) .....

Company .....

Street address .....

City ..... State ..... ZIP .....

Work phone .....

Work e-mail address .....

## MARRIAGE

Spouse's name .....

If VCU alumnus/alumna, class year .....

Wedding date ..... Spouse's employer .....

## FAMILY

☐ Boy ☐ Girl

Name ..... Date of birth/arrival .....

Spouse/partner's name .....

If VCU alumnus/alumna, class year .....

**To report a death,** please also provide a news clipping of the death notice.

Name of deceased ..... Class year .....

Date of death ..... Relationship to deceased .....

**Please note:** News for publication must be not more than one year old because of space constraints.  
If you do not wish to publish this information, please check the box at right.

**Mail your update to:** Office of Alumni Relations, Virginia Commonwealth University, 924 W. Franklin St.,  
P.O. Box 843044, Richmond, VA 23284-3044; or fax (804) 828-8197; or e-mail [vcu-alum@vcu.edu](mailto:vcu-alum@vcu.edu); or visit  
[www.vcu-mcvalumni.org](http://www.vcu-mcvalumni.org).

*I am submitting information  
on the following:*

- ☐ Promotion
- ☐ New job
- ☐ Address change
- ☐ Wedding
- ☐ Family addition
- ☐ Death notice
- ☐ Other (Please attach  
separate sheet to report  
awards, etc.)
- ☐ Do not publish this  
information. I am submitting  
for record purposes only.



## Engineering faculty focuses on a diverse future for students

Rosalyn Hobson originally wanted to go to medical school. She planned to earn an undergraduate degree in engineering – thinking that would give her an edge over students majoring in biology or chemistry – but by the second year, her mindset changed.

"I'm curious about how things work, and engineering gave me the opportunity to figure that out," she says.

Hobson, the associate dean for graduate studies at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Engineering, has been involved with the engineering program since its inception in the mid-1990s. She recently sat down with Shafer Court Connections to discuss the importance of diversity and global opportunities in this ever-changing field.

Most recently, more women are pursuing careers in engineering. Why is that diversity important?

Diversity provides a lot of different perspectives on how to solve problems. If you look at population demographics, about half the world is females. Imagine a profession that is so important to progress and so important to making life better, still has half the population not really engaged in it or even thinking of it as a possible career choice. By bringing together a diverse group of people, including women, you can get innovative solutions.

Why are international experiences important for you to participate in? Just like engineering was always part of my family, international experiences were, too. I'm fascinated with other cultures. I believe

that we are citizens of the world because of the connectedness, the global interactions and the linkages of individuals and multinational companies. The decisions people make in one country not only impact their bordering countries but now affect economies around the world. We can't just live in our own corner, and I don't want to.

What have been some of your international experiences?

In 2001, I received my first international grant to facilitate a partnership with a university in South Africa. We've taken students to work in South Africa on research projects that were relevant to their studies. I was an American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow and studied the role of science and technology in international development. I'm now the director of the University of KwaZulu-Natal partnership, one of VCU's 16 strategic international partnerships.



## Weddings

### 2000s

**Kim Miller** (M.S. '06/E) and **John Frederick Curnutt** were married on June 2, 2007, in Brentwood, Tenn. They live in Columbia, S.C., where she works as the marketing manager at the Colonial Center Arena.

**Amy Wyland** (B.S. '02/H&S; M.Ed. '04/E) married **Jarrett Wilson** on Dec. 30, 2006. They live in Richmond, Va.

## Births

### 2000s

**Chris Groome** (B.S. '00/En) and his wife, **Thu-Hang**, are pleased to announce the birth of **Leah Groome** on March 12, 2008.

**Gerty (Fernandez) Johnson** (B.S. '03/En) is pleased to announce the birth of **Shaun Johnson** on Feb. 14, 2008.

**Joel Passmore** (B.S. '03/En) and his wife, **Nikki** (B.S. '03/En), are pleased to announce the birth of **Cadence Marie** on Jan. 30, 2008.

**Jason Roe** (B.S. '00/En) and his wife, **Erin** (B.S. '00/En), are pleased to announce the birth of their son, **Caleb Patrick Roe**, on Feb. 7, 2008.

## Obituaries

### 1930s

**Joseph H. Adams** (B.F.A. '38/A), of Kilmarnock, Va., Feb. 29, 2008, at age 94.

**Louise Peck Dill\*** (B.F.A. '39/A), of Sioux Falls, S.D., July 8, 2007, at age 91.

**Selma Ruth Novey** (B.S. '39/H&S), of Richmond, Va., Feb. 25, 2007.

### 1940s

**Mary Frances Turner Darst** (M.S.W. '44/SW), of Roanoke, Va., June 9, at age 102. She previously served as chief psychiatric social worker in the Psychosomatic Clinic of the University of Pittsburgh Medical School and as chief psychiatric social worker in the Department of Child Psychiatry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Darst was also a charter member of the National Association of Social Workers and a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers and the Orthopsychiatric Association.

**Anne R. Fischer** (M.S.W. '44/SW), of Midlothian, Va., April 13, 2008, at age 105.

**Hunter C. Purdie\*** (B.F.A. '49/A), of Richmond, Va., Feb. 25, 2008, at age 86.

**Jane T. Travis** (B.S. '45/E), of Montross, Va., Jan. 31, 2008, at age 84.

**Mann S. Valentine V** (44/A), of Richmond, Va., Feb. 3, 2008, at age 84.

### 1950s

**Clyde C. Anderson Jr.\*** (B.S. '59/B), of Petersburg, Va., Feb. 16, 2008, at age 78.

**Dorothy T. Burton** (B.S. '54/E), of Richmond, Va., June 1, 2008.

**Sara Wallace Deaton** ('50/A), of Roanoke, Va., April 14, 2008.

**Cornelia Wellman Friedman** (B.S. '51/MC), of Ashland, Va., March 28, 2008.

**Paul F. Humphries** (B.S. '53/E), of Chase City, Va., April 14, 2008, at age 86.

**George W. Lyle III** (B.S. '53/E), of Radford, Va., July 9, 2007, at age 84.

**Homer Stanley Marsh** (B.S. '53/H&S), of Salem, Va., April 5, 2008.

**Oscar M. Stevenson III** ('59), of Richmond, Va., June 17, 2008, at age 67.

## Corrections

The spring 2008 issue of Shafer Court Connections incorrectly listed **Catherine S. Turner** (Cert. '90/B; M.S. '07/B) as deceased. Turner reports from her post as chief information officer at the VCU School of the Arts in Qatar that she "actually got a good laugh from this when one of my colleagues in Richmond called to see if I was still alive and kicking in Qatar."

In that same issue, **Richard Bland College** was improperly referenced as a community college. **Richard Bland College**, part of the College of William and Mary, is Virginia's only junior college.

Shafer Court Connections regrets these errors.



# New lifetime members

Robert A. Almond  
Donald W. Anderson  
Elizabeth W. Baker, Ph.D.  
Sheryl D. Baldwin, Ph.D.  
Carrie A. Bennett  
Cary W. Bero  
Neil A. Bero  
John P. Bolger, Ph.D.  
Jonathan Bullock  
Michael H. Bulls  
Lee A. Bundy  
Dale P. Burgess  
Katherine Belew Carr  
John C. Christian Jr.  
Peggy C. Christian  
Dr. Carroll B. Coakley  
Jerry S. Conner  
Stephen C. Coudriet  
Deborah R. Crawford  
Michael L. Crawford  
Alison M. Creekmore  
Donna M. Dalton  
Susanne Daniel  
Vernon M. Danielsen  
Deborah R. Davis  
E. Wilson Davis Jr.  
Michael D. Denoia  
Eric J. Director  
Mindy A. Director  
Donna B. Doyle  
Herbert M. Dunnville Jr.  
D'Anne Early  
Taylor W. Early  
Brian J. Epley  
Michael D. Estes  
Teresa-Ann M. Estes  
Charles M. Ewell  
Anne B. Farmer  
Katherine A. Gepford  
Lynda V. Gillespie, Ph.D.  
Gail Grandis  
Judy B. Granger  
Richard G. Granger  
D. Courtney Griffin  
Deidra L. Griffin-Harry  
Cynthia M. Guin

A. Lynn Hackney  
Melanie D. Haimes-Bartolf  
Rodney A. Harry  
Theresa E. Hayes  
Weldon Hazlewood  
Eric L. Heiberg  
Kathleen A. Henley  
Harvey S. Hicks III, Ph.D.  
Sarah K. Hufford  
Joyce F. Hurt, Ph.D.  
Jonathan F. Iaquinto  
Christopher R. Jenkins  
Randall W. Johnson, M.D.  
Ambrose Jones III, Ph.D.  
Deborah M. Jones  
Susan F. Josenhans  
Barbara C. Kelly  
Bobbe Lynne Kennedy, Ph.D.  
Laura D. King  
James L. Kirby  
Thomas P. Krahe  
Dianne Q. Kurec, Ph.D.  
Susan D. Kurzman  
Thomas J. Lucus  
Michael A. Malinsky  
Richard L. Mandarino  
Paul D. McWhinney  
Christopher J. Mitchell  
Debra R. Mitchell  
David M. Monticelli  
Melinda L. Mottley  
Andrew K. Nelson Jr.  
Marc H. Noble  
Mark B. O'Brien  
Christopher M. Olson  
Erin H. Olson  
Johnette Overton  
James F. Palmer  
Terry M. Parsons  
D. Bruce Patterson  
Vicky C. Payne  
Deborah Pearson  
Thomas W. Pearson  
Edward H. Peebles Jr., Ph.D.  
Baxter F. Phillips Jr.  
Karen E. Phillips

Robert E. Poe  
Patricia K. Price  
John C. Purnell Jr.  
Thomas A. Rakestraw  
Matthew A. Riffe  
Elizabeth W. Roberson  
Dalentina Nadine Robertson  
Jeremy B. Robinson  
Dr. Kristy R. Robinson  
Timothy Rohrmoser  
Casey A. Saggars  
Jeffrey H. Segal  
Nancy N. Segal  
Donna S. Sharits  
Erin Hiley Sharp  
Thomas A. Silvestri  
Clifford S. Singer  
Michael A. Singer  
Gail K. Smith  
Richard C. Smith  
Robert E. Sorah  
Fran Sorin  
Jonnie B. Stone  
Christopher P. Sullivan  
Tammy K. Swecker  
Paulette W. Taylor  
Michael D. Thornton  
Martha S. Travis  
Joseph A. Tyner  
Steve K. Waldron  
Serena L. Walkin  
Mary Dietzel Watko  
Karen F. Wawryzn  
Lynn E. Weaver  
Kenneth N. West  
Reneé M. West  
Shelley R. White  
Charles E. Willett  
Col. James E. Williams  
Martha B. Wilson  
Dana S. Woods, D.P.T.  
Kea I. Yoon  
Mee Z. Yoon  
John C. Zeheb

List includes individuals who joined the VCU Alumni Association or the African-American Alumni Council as lifetime members between Jan. 1, 2008, and June 30, 2008.

## 1960s

Dolores E. Connelly ('61/H&S; '61/B), of Richmond, Va., Jan. 31, 2008, at age 81.  
James R. Delaney (B.S. '66/H&S), of Troutdale, Va., Oct. 25, 2007, at age 63.

Ronald B. Donati (B.S. '69/B), of Richmond, Va., Jan. 29, 2008.  
Charlotte A. Fletcher (B.S. '66/E), of Bluffton, S.C., Dec. 7, 2007, at age 64.  
James M. Gormus (B.S. '66/B; M.S. '69/B), of Richmond, Va., Feb. 13, 2008, at age 64.

Betty W. Jaffee (B.S. '64/E), of Richmond, Va., April 30, 2008, at age 75.  
Patrick J. McDermott\* (B.S. '64/B), of Germantown, Md., June 11, 2008.  
Dorothy C. Packer (B.A. '69/H&S), of Richmond, Va., July 17, 2007, at age 94.  
Leah T. Robinson\* (B.S. '63/H&S; M.S. '65/H&S; Ph.D. '74/H&S), of Virginia Beach, Va., Dec. 6, 2007, at age 79.  
Mary J. Stephen (B.F.A. '69/A), of Mechanicsville, Va., May 18, 2008, at age 61.  
Norma R. Tauer (B.S. '63/H&S), of Midlothian, Va., July 21, 2007.  
Carol J. Turnage (B.F.A. '69/A), of Lanexa, Va., April 23, 2008, at age 60.  
James W. Vinson ('66/B), of Mechanicsville, Va., May 1, 2008, at age 66.  
Jerry R. Ward (B.S. '67/B), of Hayes, Va., May 15, 2008.  
Elizabeth D. Wylie (B.S. '69/H&S), of Richmond, Va., Feb. 3, 2008, at age 83.

## 1970s

Kathryn Furgurson Atkins (M.Ed. '78/E), of Richmond, Va., Jan. 10, 2008, at age 57.  
Nellie D. Brauer (B.S. '78/E), of Richmond, Va., April 23, 2008, at age 86.  
Teresa E. Burton (B.A. '78/H&S), of Columbia, Va., March 18, 2008, at age 50.  
Carolyn D. Cage (B.S. '75/H&S), of Halifax, Va., May 15, 2008.  
Carol B. Disberger (B.S. '77/E; M.Ed. '82/E), of Richmond, Va., March 24, 2008, at age 68.  
James T. Francis\* (B.S. '70/MC), of Richmond, Va., Aug. 6, 2007, at age 96.  
Marlan T. Franklin (B.S. '76/MC), of Washington, D.C., March 1, 2008, at age 57.  
Patsy H. Gill (M.Ed. '75/E), of Flowery Branch, Ga., June 11, 2008, at age 62.  
Joseph C. Grosik Jr. (B.S. '70/B), of Patskala, Ohio, Nov. 29, 2007.  
Bernice H. Hoffman (B.S. '70/E), of Richmond, Va., Feb. 29, 2008, at age 91.  
Patricia B. Insley\* (B.S. '70/MC), of Richmond, Va., April 18, 2008, at age 60.  
Joseph B. Ivey (B.S. '72/H&S; M.S. '77/H&S), of Hopewell, Va., March 11, 2008, at age 83.  
Elvira R. James (M.Ed. '72/E), of Richmond, Va., May 11, 2008.  
Elaine F. Jefferson (M.S.W. '75/SW), of Petersburg, Va., April 5, 2008, at age 62.  
Lawrence E. Johns (B.S. '73/H&S), of Richmond, Va., Nov. 21, 2007.  
Ryland Bland Kuper (B.S. '72/B), of Quinton, Va., April 23, 2008, at age 60.  
Steven J. Macko (B.F.A. '73/A), of Richmond, Va., March 29, 2008, at age 61.  
Margaret M. Meyer (Cert. '79/B), of Mechanicsville, Va., June 7, 2008, at age 73.  
James B. Montgomery (B.S. '75/H&S; M.P.A. '83/H&S), of Petersburg, Va., April 26, 2008, at age 54.  
Deborah A. Moser-Payne\* (B.M.E. '79/A), of Philadelphia, Jan. 1, 2008, at age 55.  
Robert H. Pemberton (B.S. '74/B), of Manassas, Va., May 30, 2008, at age 61.  
David R. Pittman (B.S. '75/MC), of Richmond, Va., April 12, 2007, at age 57.  
William R. Pleasants (B.S. '74/B), of Richmond, Va., Feb. 11, 2008, at age 65.  
David A. Reeve (B.S. '70/H&S), of Hayes, Va., March 31, 2008, at age 65.  
William A. Robertson Jr. (M.Ed. '72/E), of Ashland, Va., May 26, 2007, at age 76.  
Margaret D. Roussos\* (B.S. '76/SW; M.S. '88/AHP), of Richmond, Va., Feb. 29, 2008, at age 61.



# Abbreviation key

Alumni are identified by degree, year and college or school. An asterisk (\*) identifies members of the VCU Alumni Association.

## College and schools

H&S	College of Humanities and Sciences
A	School of the Arts
AHP	School of Allied Health Professions
B	School of Business
D	School of Dentistry
E	School of Education
En	School of Engineering
GPA	L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs
GS	Graduate School
LS	VCU Life Sciences
M	School of Medicine
MC	School of Mass Communications
N	School of Nursing
P	School of Pharmacy
SW	School of Social Work
WS	School of World Studies

## Degrees

A.S.	Associate Degree
Cert.	Certificate
B.F.A.	Bachelor of Fine Arts
B.G.S.	Bachelor of General Studies
B.I.S.	Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies
B.M.	Bachelor of Music
B.M.E.	Bachelor of Music Education
B.S.	Bachelor of Science
B.S.W.	Bachelor of Social Work
D.D.S.	Doctor of Dental Surgery
D.N.A.P.	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice
D.P.A.	Doctor of Public Administration
D.P.T.	Doctor of Physical Therapy
M.A.	Master of Arts
M.Acc.	Master of Accountancy
M.A.E.	Master of Art Education
M.B.A.	Master of Business Administration
M.Bin.	Master of Bioinformatics
M.D.	Doctor of Medicine
M.Ed.	Master of Education
M.Env.	Master of Environmental Studies
M.F.A.	Master of Fine Arts
M.H.A.	Master of Health Administration
M.I.S.	Master of Interdisciplinary Studies
M.M.	Master of Music
M.M.E.	Master of Music Education
M.P.A.	Master of Public Administration
M.P.H.	Master of Public Health
M.P.S.	Master of Pharmaceutical Sciences
M.S.	Master of Science
M.S.A.T.	Master of Science in Athletic Training
M.S.D.	Master of Science in Dentistry
M.S.H.A.	Master of Science in Health Administration
M.S.N.A.	Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia
M.S.O.T.	Master of Science in Occupational Therapy
M.S.W.	Master of Social Work
M.T.	Master of Teaching
M.Tax.	Master of Taxation
M.U.R.P.	Master of Urban and Regional Planning
O.T.D.	Post-professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate
Pharm.D.	Doctor of Pharmacy
Ph.D.	Doctor of Philosophy

**Steven L. Shewbridge** (B.S. '70/B), of Midlothian, Va., March 15, 2008, at age 61.

**Florine H. Smith** (M.S. '74/B), of Richmond, Va., May 27, 2008, at age 71.

**Susan M. Stanley\*** (B.F.A. '72/A; M.S. '94/AHP), of Richmond, Va., May 2, 2007, at age 57.

**Eleanor S. Sturgis** (B.S. '77/H&S; M.Ed. '80/E), of Eastville, Va., Feb. 2, 2008, at age 52.

**Kyle R. Sumner** (M.Ed. '75/E), of Farmville, Va., Jan. 30, 2008, at age 91.

**Vernon M. Watson Jr.** (B.S. '78/B), of Richmond, Va., Feb. 5, 2008, at age 58.

**Eric R. Wester** (B.A. '71/H&S), of Falls Church, Va., Oct. 10, 2007, at age 60.

## 1980s

**Rose D. Altschull** (M.Ed. '89/E), of Palmyra, Va., Feb. 11, 2008, at age 60.

**Gladys C. Anthony** (B.S. '88/B), of Maidens, Va., Feb. 2, 2008, at age 47.

**John A. Bowden Jr.** (B.S. '89/H&S), of Courtland, Va., Feb. 19, 2008, at age 64.

**Mary Anna Duke** (B.G.S. '84/H&S; M.S. '86/AHP), of Norfolk, Va., June 11, 2008, at age 55.

**Ray A. Gobble** (M.B.A. '81/B), of Laurel, Md., April 10, 2008, at age 67.

**Martha E. Grant** (B.S. '86/MC), of Richmond, Va., Feb. 5, 2008, at age 60.

**Priscilla E. Green** (M.Ed. '82/E), of Richmond, Va., May 7, 2008, at age 56.

**William T. Hawkins II\*** (B.S. '87/H&S; M.S. '97/M; Ph.D. '06/M), of Richmond, Va., June 18, 2008, at age 49.

**Mary P. Jenkins** (M.Ed. '80/E), of Petersburg, Va., Feb. 10, 2008, at age 79.

**Dorothy V. Jones-Smith** (B.S. '88/B), of Norfolk, Va., Dec. 26, 2007, at age 41.

**Zelda K. Nordlinger** (B.G.S. '85/H&S), of Richmond, Va., March 18, 2008, at age 76.

**Maria R. Sams** (B.F.A. '88/A), of Richmond, Va., March 19, 2008 at age 43.

**Leslie G. Wright** (B.G.S. '85/H&S), of Colonial Heights, Va., May 5, 2007, at age 44.

**Wanda D. Zanders** (M.Tax. '81/B), of Richmond, Va., March 27, 2008, at age 57.

## 1990s

**Addie K. Davis** (B.G.S. '93/H&S), of Richmond, Va., Feb. 6, 2008, at age 61.

**Barbara G. DeFilippis** (B.G.S. '99/H&S), of Grundy, Va., April 6, 2008, at age 44.

**Larry V. Gordon\*** (B.S. '95/B), of Mechanicsville, Va., March 6, 2008, at age 49.

**James M. Harrison** (B.S. '92/H&S), of Chesterfield, Va., May 20, 2008, at age 48.

**Susan B. Kelly** (B.S. '97/B), of Richmond, Va., March 26, 2008, at age 51.

## 2000s

**Ivy F. Brown** (B.S. '07/H&S), of Richmond, Va., March 1, 2008, at age 55.

**Joseph R. Kraemer** (B.A. '00/H&S), of Richmond, Va., April 26, 2008, at age 36.

**Robert A. Slimak** (B.A. '03/H&S), of Richmond, Va., March 22, 2008, at age 26.

**Jonathan R. Zanin** (B.S. '03/B), of Richmond, Va., May 7, 2007, at age 26.

## Friends of VCU

**Charles G. Thalheimer Jr.**, a Richmond, Va., businessman, philanthropist and longtime friend of VCU, died April 28, 2008, at age 58. After graduating from Brown University in Rhode Island and briefly serving in the Navy, Thalheimer held management positions with Thalheimer Bros. Inc., a family-run business. In 1993, he purchased the 46-year-old Green Top Sporting Goods in Hanover County, where he served as president until his death. Thalheimer served on the VCU Foundation board and was a former member of the MCV Hospitals Hospitality House Advisory Board.

# The Big Picture

From pages 20-21

(First row, from left) VCU chemistry professor and Nobel Laureate John B. Fenn, 2002; Virginia BioTechnology Research Park, 2004; RPI Provost Henry Hibbs Jr., Ph.D., President Richard Nelson Jr., Ph.D., and former President George Oliver, Ph.D., at the dedication of Rhoads Hall, May 14, 1968; VCU LifeEvac helicopter, 2006; James Branch Cabell Library, 1972; VCU student teacher, 1970; Sheldon M. Retchin, M.D., M.S.P.H., CEO, VCU Health System, and vice president, VCU Health Sciences, and Eugene P. Trani, Ph.D., president, VCU and VCU Health System, 2005; Opera Theatre VCU's "Mikado," 2008; Mikhail Gorbachev at the University Student Commons, April 1993; Richmond city skyline, 2008

(Second row, from left) Televised instruction in the School of Dentistry, 1970; School of Mass Communications' CreateAthon on Campus, March 13, 2008; Commencement at the Richmond Coliseum, mid-1980s; Critical Care Hospital, August 2007; Rodney the Ram, 2008; Ukrop's Christmas Parade in front of VCU's School of the Arts building, 2006; VCU School of Nursing, Class of 1977; Lobs & Lessons Director Kathleen Bowles with student at the Mary and Frances Youth Center, 2008; Egyptian Building (fore-

ground) and the Hermes A. Kontos Medical Sciences Building, 2004; VCU School of the Arts in Qatar, 2001

(Third row, from left) Women's volleyball, 2006; Gladding Residence Center, late 1980s; Gov. Tim Kane at the VCU Rice Center, Earth Day 2008; White Coat Ceremony, 1997; VCU Intercultural Festival, 2006; Stuart C. Siegel Center, 2006; "For Africa" benefit program preparation, June 2007; Biochemistry professor Jan F. Chlebowski, Ph.D., with student, 1998; Campaign for VCU celebration, Sept. 27, 2007; VCU Crew Club, 2004

(Fourth row, from left) Pauley Pavilion and the East and West halls of the School of Engineering, 2008; VCU Theatre-Medicine, 2008; VCU Dance, 2004; Virginia Capital Semester student and Del. Mamye E. BaCote at the General Assembly, Feb. 14, 2007; Franklin Street, 2007; Inger and Walter Rice Center for Environmental Life Sciences, 2006; Alpha Phi Alpha Stepping Competition at the University Student Commons, 1989; VCU Brandcenter, 2008; First men's basketball game at the Siegel Center, Nov. 19, 1999; VCU pharmacy student (right) at a local pharmacy, 2006



# Datebook

Mark your calendars for these Virginia Commonwealth University and VCU Alumni Association events. For more alumni activities, go to [www.vcu-mcvalumni.org](http://www.vcu-mcvalumni.org) or [www.vcu-aaac.org](http://www.vcu-aaac.org), or visit <http://events.vcu.edu> for campus happenings.

## OCTOBER

Oct. 20-24  
**Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale**  
James Branch Cabell Library  
(804) 828-1105

Oct. 24-26  
**Fall Fest**  
Various events/locations  
(804) 828-6500



Oct. 25  
**Monroe Park Festival celebrating VCU's 40th anniversary**  
Monroe Park  
[www.40th.vcu.edu](http://www.40th.vcu.edu)

Oct. 25  
**RPI Commemorative Sculpture Presentation\***  
Ginter House  
(804) 828-2586

Oct. 28  
**Fall Choral Classic**  
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts  
(804) 828-6776

## NOVEMBER

Nov. 15  
**Hungarian Virtuosi**  
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts  
(804) 828-6776

TBD  
**Theatre VCU — "Shadow Play"**  
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts  
(804) 828-6776

\*VCUAA event

## DECEMBER

Dec. 13  
**Commencement Breakfast\***  
University Student Commons  
(804) 828-2586

**Winter Commencement**  
Stuart C. Siegel Center  
(804) 828-1917

## JANUARY

Jan. 16-March 1  
**"Embodying the Sacred in Yoruba Art: Featuring the Bernard and Patricia Wagner Collection"**  
Anderson Gallery  
(804) 828-1522

Jan. 17  
**25th Anniversary of the University Student Commons**  
University Student Commons  
(804) 828-1981

Did you work at the University Student Commons? If so, we'd like to invite you to the anniversary gala. Please send your mailing address to [contactusca@vcu.edu](mailto:contactusca@vcu.edu)

## FEBRUARY

**Black History Month at VCU**  
Various events/locations  
(804) 828-6672

Feb. 28  
**Guarneri String Quartet**  
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts  
(804) 828-6776



Guarneri String Quartet

TBD  
**Theatre VCU — "The Glass Menagerie"**  
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts  
(804) 828-6026

## MARCH

March 19  
**24th Annual Brown-Lyons Lecture: Jack Spiro, Ph.D.**  
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts  
(804) 828-1165 or (804) 828-1163

March 27-29  
**17th Annual French Film Festival**  
Byrd Theatre  
(804) 828-3456

## APRIL

April 24-26  
**Reunion Weekend\***  
Richmond Professional Institute Reunion  
African-American Alumni Council Reunion  
Various events/locations  
(804) 828-2586



Reunion Weekend

TBD  
**Theatre VCU — "Chicago"**  
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts  
(804) 828-6026

## MAY

May 16  
**Commencement Breakfast\***  
Location TBD  
(804) 828-2586

**Spring Commencement**  
Stuart C. Siegel Center  
(804) 828-1917







**CIRCA**

## Classroom technology: 1970s

Amid the typewriters dotting classroom desks, Woodie L. Tucker, Ph.D., chairman of the Department of Business Education and Office Administration, chats with a student in the original School of Business Building that opened on Floyd Avenue in 1972. Undergraduates completing the 48 semester credits needed for a business education degree — which included courses in typewriting — received endorsements to teach at the junior high, high school or college level.



# www.vcu-mcvalumni.org

Your source for alumni news, events, online membership and more!



IT'S A GREAT TIME TO BE A MEMBER!

# VCU

Virginia Commonwealth University  
Office of Alumni Relations  
924 West Franklin Street  
P.O. Box 843044  
Richmond, Virginia 23284-3044

Address Service Requested

Non-profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 869  
RICHMOND, VA